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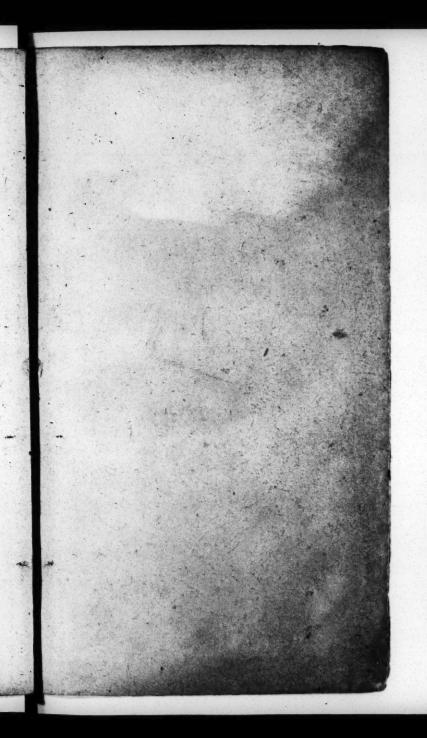
Written Originally

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The Fourth Edition,

to both fronts this Case 3 le defection





Garden of Love,
AND
ROYAL FLOWER

LØYAL FLOWER

FIDELITY

A Pleafant

HISTORY.

Written Originally

By Mr. John Remolds; Author of God's Revence sympt Minsber.

Now much Amplified by feveral Hands

The Fourth Edition, Die America

LONDON

Pented For Address Bodding on Golden Ball in Dock See. 400

But we be Building

RB23 a 8677

Licensed,

March the 16th.

1692.

Rob. Midgle

PBI

THE

EPISTLE

TO THE

READER.

Courteous Reader,

Midgle

You are bere presented with the Garden Y of Love, and Royal Flower of Fidelity; a Theme always in Request by Cupid's Admirers, and never Differenced by Heroick Spirits; where Vertue like a Skilfull Pilot, Steers Prudently: The Conclave of Ingenious Philosophers, upon whose Serene Brows Discretion sits Triumphant, do declare their Opinion, That there is no Love equivolent to that which is built upon the Rock of Vertue; and Divine Experience, doth by Sacred Examples daily Demonstrate to us

The Epiftle to the Reader.

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That Desires which exceeds Honours Limits, are always in the Prime of their Hopes, metitoriously Crost by some prejudicial Missfortune: Whereas, on the contrary, Love Grounded on a Pious Determination, doth not only most flourishingly live in Fortunate Prosperity, but likewise dieth in most Blissfull

affired Felicity.

The Deity at all Times, abborreth a Difloyal Heart, and with the Events of Contentation, Crowneth that Love whose Effects tend to Unfeigned Fidelity: The Rage of Love's Passions are of that Magnitude, that in a manner, all efteem Venus powerfull: For first, she as an Indulgent Mother Predestinateth, and Cupid, as her Obedient Son, striketh whom she Commands. By Nature, all Men are Compounded of one Essential Substance yes being produced under various Planets, Love, with her Intricate Authority, doth Exercise ber Cruelty more over some, than others; for Beauty bath such Power, and her Power such Vertue, that seldom any Mortal slaapes of being sometimes Scorch'd with the ordent Flame of her Tyrannical Profecution; as well Potentates, as Impotents, fight under the Banner of Beauty; and Cupid, the Paphi-Archer, being Blind, as foon freskes Robes, The Epistle to the Reader.

as Rags: Art can never wear out the Imression which Nature hath Imprinted, non Dignities ever avoid that which Divinity set-

seth down for a Period.

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All Men are Subjects to the God of Love: sherefore no Marvel if powerfull Amours fo fieze the Hearts of Princes, that they build their External Felicity, upon the Embraces of their Sacred Admirers, and lay their Foundation of Hope and Happiness, in being Enrolled a Servant in their Saint-like Memo-Juvenile Fancies, very often shoot at Rovers; yet being once in the Field of Love, Vanquished by the Prospect of some Excelling Beauty, they so render themselves Captive to the Circe's Enchantment of partial Complections, that they will not only Engage their Constancy, for the obtaining of their Hearts Defire, but also lay their Lives at Stake, and their Fidelities for the Establishing of their Breafts Satisfaction: As the Sequel

of this History will make manifest.

This Flower is never out of Season, Winter, nor Summer, and bath this Vertue in it, being Distilled into the Heart, it is a Perfect Antidote against Treachery. The Story it self was Penn'd above forty Years since, by the Author of that Excellent Piece.

Entituled

The Epistle to the Reader.

cipl Entituled, God's Revenge against the he Crying and Execrable Sin of wilfull and premeditated Murther. It bath bad fo good a Reception by many, that it bath undergone Three Impressions, which being all withered, I have bloomed a Fourth, though much Altered, Amended, and Modelled, to the Humour of the Age, and will, I make no Question, render Satisfaction to the Reader. the state of the state of the

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and being nurs'd with Care, and difciplined in Martial Exercises, he was at
the Age of seven years grown so great a
Proficient in the School of Bellona, that
all the Astrologers at that time did persectly prognosticate, that his Princely
Person would at the Age of Reason, undoubtedly merit to be triumphantly
Crown'd with the Laureat Garland of Olympian Fame.

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Beautiful he was of Complexion, more exquisitely resembling Adonis than Paris: Courteous he was of Demeanour; for his Benignity surpassed the Assability of Alexander; and exceeding discreet he was of Capacity, for from his eloquent Tongue dropt the inchanting Phrases of admired Demostbenes. So that as Nature had surpassed her Skill, in framing him outwardly most excellent; Art likewise had bestowed her chiefest Curiosity in embellishing his Mind with the Prime of ingenious Inclusive. Patentis she had heard this Report, would have

had view'd his Person, would have for laken her fupiter; and the Spread themlelves, had they fixed their Eyes upon

prais'd his Perfections: Juno, if the

his Features, would have withdrawn their Melody from timorous Ulyffes, and tun'd the Harmony of their Voices to invest only Thalmeno their Favourite.

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· He in the bloomy Spring-time of his tender Juvenility demonstrated fo many vertuous Actions of his Princely For. wardness, that the King, his Royal Father, rendred millions of Thanks to the Sacred Febovab, for bleffing him with fo fweet a Son; and his joyful Cicilians yielded devout Gratulations to Goddess Fortune, for affording them fo gallant an Heir to their flourishing Empire. Which heroical young Prince, being the Map of Modesty, the Patron of Piety, and the Flower of Magnanimity, had no fooner heard Time found the Fifteenth Year of his Age, but fixed his Mind upon renowned Travel, and did upon the Rock of his valorous Refolutions, fo constantly determine to experiment what the Event of his Princely Fortunes might produce, that Youthful, yet Majestical Defires still kindling within the Embers of his heroical Affection; did at last so flame to the absolute Fire of desperate Determination, that, come Life or Death, Thelmeno

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Thalmeno resolved, and in resolving, vowed to withstand the Blasts of Boreas, and pass the Surges of Neptune, the better to adorn the Store house of his Royal Fancy with the strange accidental Sights of some foreign Novelties:

But Millions of Doubts began to incumber his aspiring Imaginations; for first, considering, that to depart without Leave, were to bereave his Father of his only Comfort; and to forfake Cicilia, were to withdraw his Staff of Confolation; which Premises considering, he refolved to bury his Military Resolutions in the Grave of Oblivion: So that fmothering up the submissive Motives of Obedience in the Concave of Self-will. and pricking forward his Senses with the dignify'd Spurs of Hohour, he lastly refolved, that mangre the Effects of Fortune, or the Treachery of Time, very foon to depart.

But this his private Resolution, was not so secretly concealed, but the News there of reached the Ears of his Cousin Palmor, being only Son to Blithgora, King of Egypt; who being extraordinarily, well pleased with the Report, could reap no perfect

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Reft.

Rest, untill he had engaged himself : Participator of his Coufin's adventurous Proceedings: Whereupon finding Thalmeno in a defolate Arbour, he very familiarly discovered to him, the News he had heard of his designed Intentions; which Thalmeno no fooner understood, but he was overjoyed, that he had found fo Princely a Partner of his future Fortunes, and to the Purity of his affectionate Entreaty, most soon condescended: So that each taking a Page, with fuch Necessaries as was befitting their Voyage, they very closely, in a Night, when the Moon being overshadowed with obscure Clouds, and secmed to condescend to their Resolutions, most secretly departed, directing their Course to Trapani, one of the chiefest Ports in Cicilia where finding an Argazil ready to fet fail, bound for the Country of Arabia, they instantly imbarked themselves, rejoycing that Dame Fortune had fo foon provided for them a speedy Passage without making the King or the Coun acquainted with their Pretentions. Soon were these two tender Princes missing and for their Absence, what sorrowin Moure

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nfelf iturous Thalfami ws he tions; flood, found Forectionded: fuch Voywhen th ob-**Scend** v de-Trapacilia o fet rabia. 5, retoon ffage, Court Soon Hing owfu

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Mournings, melancholly Aggravations, and diffempered Dolefulness was in all places, but especially in the Palace Royal, I refer to the discreet Reader's impartial Censure. And in respect that our History depends not on their Bewailings, but on the adventurous Proceedings of our bloomy young Princes, I will for a while leave their Sorrows to be comforted by vertue of Patience, and return again to the Common-wealth of Neptune, whereon these our Princely Partners were fortunately failing; who appearing upon the Deck, not only reaped the Pleasure to see the Armatho furioully cut through the Surges of the Seas, but also enjoyed the Prerogative of delectable Exileration, in beholding the fruitful Gale fairly blow the Swan-like Sails from the tall Mast; which so long lasted, that in time they were fortunately come within knowledge of their defired Port : Whereat the whole Company, but especially our two young ces, rejoyced; they forthwith generally rendred many Millions of Thanks to divine Jove, in that to favourably he had bleffed them with wished-for Success: B 4 who

who feeing their Argazil at an Anchor and having invested themselves with o ther Garments, did thereupon defire the Master to set them ashore, which imme diately was accomplished; at whose triumphant Departure the Mariners let fly fuch a thundering Peal of Ordnance, that the Report thereof rebounding from the Concavity of the clifty Shores, not only made these our valourous Martialists eremble, but also terrified Bellona her self, being resident in the Citadel of her Celeftial Monarchy; but the Smoak being evaporated with the Freshness of the furious Wind, our Princes instantly attained the Shore, and royally rewarding the Boatswains Gang, they betook themselves to their desperate Adventures; where through the Affrican Defarts, they folitarily to long travelled, that at last, being destitute of Food, and not finding wherewith to suffice Nature, in respect thefe Parts were not inhabitted, they paffionately tracing these unknown Groves very lamentably began to exclaim upon the inhumane Difasters of their miserable Calamities; but in vain, for they espied no Food to replenish

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their hungry Appetites, unless to have fed upon unknown Roots, which were not agreeable to their Palates; but hoping e're long to harbour themselves in some homely Cottage, where with rustical Fare they might appeale their Hunger: Upon the Foundation of which Hope, advancing their Pace, they at last came to the Descent of a deep Valley. where, with a faint Courage, very penfively walking, they through a Thicket of an ancient Forrest, espied the Architecture of some domestical Mansion. which to their Sorrowful Contemplations, produced unexpected Encouragement; but refuming Courage to themselves, thereunto directed their Course, where, being to the outward Gate arrived, they beheld a famous Caftle, but to lolitarily fituated in the Genter of the Forrest, that the Wind piercing most dolefully through the Branches of the lofty Cedars, made fuch a mournful Murmur, that the Dolefulness thereof drove our two young Princes into a Fit of Effeminate Despair; but at last, Hunger to far constrained them, they reolved to enter; where opening the outward Gate, they passed the first Court without espying any; and entring the fecond, they beheld a delicious Court, most ingeniously paved with curious Marble, which very stately was circumferenced with a fumptuous arch'd Gallery, propp'd up by Pillars of bright shining Alabaster; casting their Eyes a small distance, they espied a Lady, sweet and amiable, which under the shady Leaves of a Fig-tree, fate recreating her Sence with the fweet Sound of a well-tun'd Lute, to which she joyn'd her ravishing Voice, and harmoniously breath'd ou thefe forrowful Verfes.

Ab! gentle Sleep, thou easer of my Woes Softly, and quickly, let my Eyes dispose Themselves to pleasing Slumbers, that I may In Dreams poffes those foys deny'd by day Joys, which if real, were to that degree, So great, were only fit for Gods, not me: Then since Prince Mædor does no pity take Let me but dream, I'd never wish to wake

The which, as foon as she had ended repeating over divers times the Name of Medor, one might eafily perceive man

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Chrystal Tears distill down her Vermitlion Cheeks, as also hear many deep Sighs which her perplexed Heart fent forth, as Telfimonials of her tormented Passions; and therewithal lifting up her Eyes towards the Seat of her Celestial Maker, being overwhelmed with too many insupportable Sorrows, she instantly fainting to the Ground, fell into a dangerous Trance. Which tragical Object, our two Princes perceiving, halfily stept to her Affistance, and raising her from the flowery Bank whereon the fell, they used fuch prefervative Means for her Recovery, as their unskilful, though willing, Industry could afford them; so that in time, by good Fortune the again re-covered; and feeing these two Strangers before her, the was surprized, and having Anger feated on her Brow, attered these Words.

CEntlemen, for so your Aspects in vites me to term you; if you knew how divinely quiet I endured this deadly slumber into which I was entred, I absolutely know, or at least believe, that in Equity and Reason, you would

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my Confolation; but fince things past cannot be recalled, because Accidents

once produced, do foon fly far, having Time's Wings, I will, on Condition

you immediately depart, for this your first Offence, not esteem you guilty.

'I have here wholly betaken my felf to Sorrowfulness, and have long since de-

voted my Zeal to the Shrine of Disconfolation; my Desire is neither to see nor be seen, but rather to lead the Pil-

grimage of my Life from the fight of any. This folitary Place I have elected

for my Habitation; and here, unless

Death prevent my Premeditations, I refolve to wait the return of a dear

Friend of mine, which inconstant Fortune many Months hath detain'd from

me. I'm reality hate the fight of any, and for his fake loath the Prospect of

all. Therefore, at the Request of a forrowful Lady, I beseech you delay

not to depart, that according to my accustomed manner, I may sincerely,

npon the Altar of his Absence, devout-

by facrifice my affectionate Sighs, in token

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token, that till Death, in the Garden of my Maiden Amity, the Resemblance of his self, and Idea of his Perfections, shall to my everlasting Comfort immortally flourish.

The Princes with attentive Ears listned to the Effect of her Speeches, and having both very lowly made their Obeisance, Thalmeno addressed himself to her.

MAdam, If our sudden arrival have prejudiced your forrowful Devotions, or detained you from performing those Vows to him, who is happier than any of his Fellow Creatures, in being beloved by so much Vertue as dwells in you; we are ready to acknowledge our Defect in being so presumptuous, and express our Sorrow; but since the Purity of our Pretence may plead for the Excuse of our Rudenels, and the Innocency of our Resolutions, crave Remission for our Boldines, we doubt not, but when hearing our forrowful Relation, you will in Equity afford us your gracious Pardon.

and bury all our Offences in the Grave of Oblivion.

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'To give you an Account, Madam, of our Extraction: We are both Princes,

the one Heir apparent to the Crown of Egypt; and the other to the Diadem of

Cicilia, our Names Palma and Thalmeno,

who in the Prime of our Minorities, re-

folved to travel, and so privately embarking our selves, without Leave of

our Royal Parents, we of late arrived in the next bordering Harbour; fince

which rime, as faithless and erroneous

Fortune guided us, we strayed into an unknown Desart, where these three

days we have dangerously travelled,

without finding Sufferance to relieve

our Hunger; so that at last, ranging the solitary Forrests, we fortunately ar-

rived to this your Castle: Our Design,

Madam, is not to incur your Indignation, but earnestly to implore your Re-

' lief, that in paying the Debt we owe to

Nature, we may avoid the tyrannizing Empire of Death, which most inhu-

manly doth now begin to reign over

ns; which if your gentle Pity extends it

felf fo far, we shall continually remain

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huver ls it ain Servants both to your Bounty and Beauty; and till the Period of Death, hold the Term of our Lives as again re-purchased byour Majestical Merits, and likewise depart when it shall please you to command us.

The Lady pondering upon these deplorable Speeches, very foon conceived in her Breaft a Motion of Relaxation, fecretly inspiring her to entertain them with all agreeable Curiofity: So that taking them kindly by the hand, she conducted them to a very fumptuous Dining-room, and commanding her Virgins to furnish the Table with fuch as her folitary Habitation could afford; they very orderly, without any prolix Ceremonies, fell hungerly to their Meat; till Repast being done, and the Princes satisfied; Thalmeno still burning with Defire to know the effectual Caule of this Ladies defolate Retirement, with a Princely Grace, continued his precedent Difcourfe.

Madam,

Madam, If the Repetition of you Misfortunes renew not your Grief, o the Display of your Sorrows increa not your Disconsolations, I should freem it a great Happiness, might I oh tain so much Favour at your fair Hand as to inform us why you make this De fart your domestical Mansion, and the Occasion, why, with numberless Sigh you repeat the Name of Medor. deed, Madam, fo much Beauty and Divine Perfections should rather besit Monarch's Court than a rural Habitati on, and a Prince's Bed, than a Pil grim's Cottage; but Experience teache us, that all are subject to Fate, and none exempted from Adversity; for as foon the Prince as the Peafant the Lady of Honour as the poorest Virgin, are, or may be cross'd with Cupid's Darts, the Sting of Sorrow, or the Tyranny of Misfortune; therefore, dear Madam, if any of these offensive Accidents have befallen you, with the Soveraign Salve of Patience fo mollific your Paffions, and raze out your Sorrows, that the Residence of Aggravation may not overtop the Bloffoms of

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avatins of vour your flourishing Juvenility, and so tragically bring your self-to the untimely End of a desperate Martyrdom.

Prince Thalmeno having ended his eech, the Lady made him this An-

M Oft vertuous Prince, I will inform you, that I have long fince loved a noble Cavalier, his Name I shall forpear mentioning, by reason the Motive will renew the Birth of my accustomed Disconsolateness; yet, in repect you shall not condemn me of perverse Ingratitude, I will, if you please to attend my Arrival, go to my Cloter, and there constrain my trembling Pen to set forth the Secrets of his Mistresses Sorrows, and in essect, to discover the sole History of my, as yet, ragical Missortunes.

Our two young Princes rejoycing at is great Favour, accepted of her kind offer; and so having familiarly saluted chother, she immediately departed to Closer; but by that time an Hour

Was

was spent, the Lady descending the Stairs, presenting her self to the Views, delivered her self in this shows speech.

A Off renowned Princes! to fatis · IVI your earnest Demands, here ta this Scroll, wherein, though rudel yet fincerely, I have demonstrated the Cause of my Retirement, and pen down the Griefs which in Heart I more than forrowfully endure. My pr fent Wealth is fuch, as I cannot affo you many Gifts; yet, as a Testimony my zealous Affection towards you, ta this Provision, and small Summs worthless Gold to supply your Nece ties, when any future Occasion is present. What incommodious Ent tainment you have met withal in t Castle, I pray forget with Favour, what is wanting of Respect in me beseech you remit with Partiality; recompence whereof, I will facri my devout Prayers for the establish of your Prosperity, and befeech He ven to fend you a most fortunate

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fafe Return; in hope whereof, betaking you to your Journey, and my felf to my accustomed Cell of Solitariness, I most dolefully, in all Honour, rake my forrowful Leave.

re ta Thalmeno and Palmo receiving the udel croll, with Tears in their Eyes, kissed of the mournful Cheeks, and so rendring penn er millions of Thanks for their unmet I ted courteous Entertainment, most ly proprowfully departed, directing their affo course to a very high Mountain, whose ony op having attained, they burned with u, ta efire to peruse the Scroll, that at last, ms afting themselves on a green Bank, emlece ellished with the Essence of many dian he red Flowers, under the Covert of a Entrately Pine-tree, whose Branches were in the kewife apparelled with a Summers Vefare; taking the Scroll, and opening it, me bund these Lines contained in it.

> A Dmired Princes! for your veru-A ous and heroick Qualities, being you have requested my abrupt Mule, to relate to you the Occasion of this my folitary Retirement; know valorous

cency, that at last, by the Means Fortune, which had likewise intrud

her felf in the Union of their Symp thy, they unexpectedly, to my Fathe

The Garden of Love, and

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Royal Flower of Fidelity. Court, fent a lovely young Prince, gla amed Medor, being Son and Heir to of rlando King of Biafara, which Prince a N eing penetrated with the flying Reork of my worthless Person, came to I w Jumidia, to protest himself my Ser-Pri ant; upon whose beautiful Aspect I her o fooner fix'd my Eyes, but I immefed lately felt the Flames of Fancy sparkle fo within my tormented Brest. On the orn ther fide, Prince Medor to often freain, mented our Royal Palace, that at last, om his Protestations were unfeigned, he der posed his Bliss in my Beauty, and y we caped his chiefest Pleasure in enjoying many defired Presence: So that Time did, up y reason of many amorous Glances, so mly unite our Affections with a comffee n'd Ratification, that in few days I at a scame Mistris of his Thoughts, and Esta e Master of my Imaginations. But now despiteful Destiny began to Ple play part of his Infidelity, for the t th ews of this our late Familiarity being piled throughout the Court, did at last rive to the King, my Father's Ears, no raging at this unexpected Event, realon he bore Malice to Orlando.

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Prince Medor's Father, resolved, no only to nip the Blossoms of this our ter der Affections in the April of their M nority, but also to blast the Buds of or Love in the Spring-time of their Juven lity; in pursuance whereof, fending for Prince Medor before him, so check him up with thundring Threats, an frown'd at him with invective Speeche that in short, though Prince Medor b gan with a pithy Oration to plead in himself, and in his Defence to descar upon his unmerited Cruelty; he n only commanded him to Silence, b also charged him to depart the Territ ries of his Kingdom. Ah infortunate Sentence for fo fwe a Prince! and most infortunate, becau being constrained to depart, he left a defolate in the flormy Surges of Pe plexity! Then after the King my I ther, had bereaved me of this my Prince 'ly Lover, within whose Breast I repol my Happinels, being not appealed w this Inhumanity, but still severely termining to invest me with the Real * nizance of his Wrath, he fo cruelly fed me, and so unnaturally restrain

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ny Liberty, that I could not one Miute reap Repose of my Imaginations, ut continually lived in a most tormened Calamity; in respect whereof, facricing my Orations upon the Altar of ringe Medor's Abfence, and devolving y Contemplations to the beautiful an dea of his Excellencies, accounting Courtly Joys vain glorious Trifies, and Princely Life a splendent Misery; in different Misery; in Cymmerian Night, which seemed to Car llow of my Resolutions, I departed the Court, and betook my felf to the Eftab tablishing of so forrowful a Life: So at aft, Fortune resolving to assist me in my lifery, very happily made me retire ither; which folitary Caffle dorh fo car orrespond with my mournful Fancy, hat for the ardent Affection which I Pe ear Prince Medor, I firmly refolve, eiy F her here to attend his expected Arrival, rine pol relse to finish my Days in manifestatin of my Fidelity. Therefore, Dear rinces, attribute my Disobedience to y. ly Parents a favourable Cenfure, and resolve, that what my Pen prescribeth,

y Capacity shall perform; that is, mmortally to remain faithful to Prince Medor, or everlastingly unfriendly to my

Which Scroll they had no fooner pe rused, but pitying the Estate of the solita ry Lady, they inftantly vowed to range the Confines of Africa, in re-searching Prince Medor, that by their friendly Di ligence, Florina from her deplorable Con dition might be delivered: by vertue which infus'd Resolution, raising them felves from the verdant Grass, they last, with familiar Amity, prosecute their Journey in fuch a pleasant manne that Phabus adorning the Day with h radient Beams, they traverling man lofty Mountains, and pleasant Valleys at last, towards the Approach of drows Vesper, arrived to a silver Fountain o'es vail'd with a Canopy of a sprouting C press, who frizling his curled Locks, too this Crystal Spring to be his reflective Mi rour, whereon, with Narciffus, delighting gaze, he continually trimmed himself. his verdant Jollity. Many Angelic Nymphs they likewise saw circum rencing this Fountain in a Dance, wh resembling Daphne, had their splenda

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m air dallying with the Nectar-Breath of miable Zephyrus, being all apparell'd in crimson Robes, 'embroider'd with Lillies nd Couslips; who no sooner beheld our wo Cavaliers approaching, but thinking hat the Shepherds and Satyrs had fent nem as Spys, thereby to entrap them in me treacherous Ambuscado, they forth-.Di vith flew through the Thickets, far Con vifter than ever did Atalanta, when she in with Hippomanes: Our Princes feeing his amorous Troop fled, were exceeding prowfull that their Arrival hindred their astimes, so that faluting them with a rill Hollah, and perceiving none retured, they instantly sate them down upon he brim of the Fountain; where gatheng many Daffadillies and other Flowers, hey dipping them in the orient Water, perewith besprinkled their Faces to reesh their Spirits; so long, till resteding heir fight upon the Excellency of the eighouring Pasture, they at last espyed a erdant Tent, on whole lofty Turret a now-white Enfign flourish'd in the Air hereat admiring, because they could or conjecture what this delightfull Object gained, they then both very joyfull dicred their Course thither; which no

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ceived it to be an Eglantine Bower, be spread with Colombines and Damask-Roles to that burning with defire to survey every part of it, they at last resolutely entred; where a snowy Beagle, with Arguery Eyes, vigilantly saluted them with his shrill barking Note; which arowsing the

Nymph his Miftress from her Repose, at this unexpected Alarm began to teat

through the Bower.

But Venus and Diana, having metamor phos'd their fore-past Malice to a future Sympathy, fo ordain'd, that her Amber Locks should be entangled in the Eglantin Briars; whereat our Princes taking hold of her loofe Garments, did, notwithstan ding her Force, compell her to fray; bu the Nymph thinking them to be Apollo and Tore, who had descended from Heavento ravish her Virginity on Errth, bitterly cryed out, and miserably tore the Tresse of her Hair in a rage: the which our Princes perceiving, with fair exhortive Speeches began to appeale her Aggravation, requesting her only to conduct them to some adjoining Cottage, where for that night they might affuredly rest in some peacefull Tranquillity. Whereat this jolef

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y Nymph raifing her felf from the Earth, and returning them Millions of Thanks, bedecking her Lilly Countenance with a Cherry Complexion, very freely conduen sted them through the Woods and Forrests, where many Troops of light-footed Satyrs ran before, as triumphant Heralds to proclaim them Paffage; fo long, till raea diant Titan flying the Zenith of our Horizon to alight the obscure Antipodes, she at last brought us to a sumptuous Palace, whose Pyramids and Towers loftily presimed to elevate their Tops in the Azure Skies; the glorious Sight whereof, made ine them to conjecture it to be that admired old Palace of Felicia, fo much dignified by anthe Pens of civil and profane Poets; for but the Walls were of gliftering Alablaster, ind the Gates of pure Chrystal, the pavement 1 to of black Jet, intermix'd with azur'd Marrly Mes ble, the Battlements of refined Gold, the Arches of Stately Porphyre, the Windows of transparent Diamonds, beset with Carive buncles and Saphires, and the Roof of Vermillion Coral, wrought Checkerwife em hat with orient Guards of Silver: the interior Lineaments owed nothing in corresponme o dence to the outward Edifice; for the Portals and Galleries were of white Ivory,

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the Redsteads of clarent Amber, the Co. verlids and Curtains of green Damask imboffed with Emeralds and Chryfolites and the Tapestry of Crimson Velvet embroidered with Amethysts and Pearl: in the spacious Court and delicious Bowers which Flora had adorned with the Treafures of her painted Drapery, were likewife many curious Fountains, some conveyed thither by the instinct of Nature, and others they erected by the ingenuity of Art. There you might have feen Diana errais'd aloft upon a stately Pillar, witha Bow in one hand, and a Banner, wherein was charactered Chastity in the other; from whefe Alablaster Paps the Water fweetly diffilling, was by her Nymphs in Chrystal Vessels received, and to artificially conveyed to the Fountains Center And also another, where Pallas, Minerva, and Juno, do from their beauteous Breafts rain Veins of Water upon the Faces of Daphne and Philomela; the which entring their Coral Lips, do diffill to the Concavity of their Chrystaline Paps; from whence with a ftern Countenance they furiously spout it in the Eyes of inhumane Jupiter, and luftfull Tereus: also upon the Borders of these Fountains are growing

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many fruitfull Fig Trees, whereon artifi-Co ficially range divers harmonious Birds sk whose celestial Musick, according with the Waters murmur, doth yield forth many ravishing Tunes of Angelical Melody; tes. so that there wanted no Ornaments to make this fumptuous Palace a Terrestrial Paradice: it was impaled with lofty Cedars, fenced Draw-bridges, and impregnable Bulwarks, as also circumferenced with curious Rivers, within whose filver Streams many fnowy Swans most pleafantly imbathed themselves; so that our two Princes with their Nymph, being arrived to this dignified Palace, were forthwith met by an ancient Matron, who feeming to be the Lady thereof, very kindly bad them Welcome: Her Habit was of a Sable Hue, having her snowy Hair hanging down her Face, her Beauty feem'd to be nipt by Age; yet in the Lineaments of Complexion lay furrowed the Anatomy of an indifferent Countenance: the Arches of her forrowfull Eves were over-veil'd with a crimfon Dye, from out whose Conduits it appeared many brinish Tears had had their Issue; which defolate Lady, after having had fome Conference with these our unknown Princes

and perceiving how the Zeal of their Cavalie Youthfull Resolutions were devoted to Dance Travel, she with a faint Voice delivered their Experience their Experience and their Experience to the conduction of their Experience to the conduction of their Experience to the conduction of their Cavalie Cavali

Ourteous Friends, for such I hope you are; fear not to enter this Palace, but advance with Freedom; for your Eyes shall be presented with such delightfull Objects as shall both

please your Thoughts, and solace your

Contemplations.

Whereat she abruptly broke off, and fo as fast as she could, fled to the Forrests. Our Princes feeing the fudden Departure of this antient Lady, exceedingly admired what this unlooked-for Novelty meant; but at last arming their Resolutions with Courage, as also seeing the sable Night be. gin to o'ervail the Element with Obscurity', taking leave of their Nymph, they boldly entred; where no fooner they had past the outward Gate, but they were forthwith met by two glorious Virgins, who faluting them with a finiling Countenance, arm in arm most lovingly conducted them to a stately Theatre, where they beheld many amorous Ladies and Cava-

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Cavaliers circumferencing themselves in a

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Dance: Having here for a while filled heir Eyes, they then by the Ladies were conducted to a very rich Bed-Chamber, where divers frollicksome Sparks were unchaftly courting their beauteous Mistresses, and in such an indecent manner that Vesta, nay Venus her self, could scarce refrain from blushing at their immoderate Familiarity. Being glutted with variety of unchast Prospects, they were at last by many radient Tapers withted to their Chambers; where to pass away the tediousness of the night, two lascivious Ladies were proffer'd to bear them Company; but our young Princes, although ardently tempted with carnal Enchantments, had their immoveable Resolution charactered upon Honour's Foundation, and not accepting of this unexpedied

Civility, very vertuously craved their Abfence; when thinking to repose themfelves, they were inftantly again folicited by two tender Virgins, who bringing two Ivory Tutes in their Hands, with their melodious Musick, thought to lull then premeditations afleep; their Breafts were

nakedly unmasked to the Spectator's Eye where one might apparently behold their

Alabla

Alablaster Paps swell and sink at an instant, ving co as being inspired with the luxurious Wind tinct of unsatiable Defire. Immodest Smile the dep they had at command, and with the fed by Hyana their Eyes darted forth a prejudicial in the ! Summons; their Garments were both as if the gay and loofe, in all things fitly correspond of we ding with their inward qualities; and grievo their gliftering Locks most viciously sport-comm ed with their Chrystal Complexions, as the amiable Fetters of Lust to enchant the Approachers.

But neither their Syrene deceitful Melody, their venemous Glances, nor their alluring lascivious Gestures, could either with Circes, charm the Genius of our Princes, or else with Madea, inchant their Generofity to range beyond the Bounds of Modesty; but like two Religious Pilgrims, they valoroully fought against vicious Concupiscence, and ardently devoted their Zeal to the Shrine of Vertue: fo that not regarding their Smiles, nor esteeming of their Temptations, they refolutely thrust them out of their Chamber, and fo fecurely locking and bolting the Door, betook themselves to rest.

But Morpheus had not long detained heir Spirits in delicious flumber, but ha-

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ant, ving contracted his Influence with the inind finct of Celestial Deity, they were in ile the depth of their Nocturnal Sleep arouthe fed by a hideous Clamour, which rattled cial in the Palace with fuch a thundring noise, oth as if the Fabricks, nay Foundation thereof were subject to a sudden Revolution; grievous Groans were plenty, crys were common, and all diverted to fuch a tempestuous confused Chaos, as if the Atlas of the World had in the vivacity of his Fury summoned the Confines of the Earth to the dreadfull day of Judgment: Whereat our two young Princes, as hat ving their obtuse Senses repleated with Fear, and their Heroical Fortitude daunted with Pufillanimity, instantly left their Beds, as if they had been transcended to the infernal Concavity of obscure Acheron; thinking that their Glass of Life was already run, and that inhumane Thanatos had now taken his tyrannical Darts in's hand to finish the period of terrestrial Catastrophies. But whilst being thus in the supposed way to Destruction, behold. there instantly appeared to em a delectable Dwarf, apparelled in Crimson, which to evaporate their timorous Delpair, with an Angelical Voice pronounced the fe Lines.

Fly Vice, fly Sin, fly Earthly Vanity, And with a Martial Courage Fear displace; Detract no Time, but with Celerity, (Face, Come view the Beauty of Dame Vertue's

Our Princes feeing this pretty Pigmy, and with advised deliberation pondering upon the Etymology of his Speeches, could not at first refrain from being asto. nished; but at last ruminating more serioully which way to elect for their Security, they both at last resolved to follow the tender Guide, thereby to free themselves from the peril of this Stratagem: Upon which Resolution arming their Courage with Magnanimity, they, as having Pegasian Wings, flew through the Courts, directing their pace to a lofty Mountain, from whence they espied this glorious Palace to be fuddenly swallowed up in the Earth's Concavity, and in fuch an admired manner, that no appearance of Foundation remained, but was utterly raz'd out, as if the Being thereof had never been there erected? which profpective Accident our Princes could not at first believe, but instantly thereupon surmised that their Eyes and Thaginations had

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had been deluded with Invasions. The Dwarf perceiving their doubtfull Perplecities, ran away from them, and to comfort their Passions, the old forlorn Lady which they first met, again presented her self to their Views; and so after having lowly saluted them, very mournfully uttered this Speech.

MY Sons, Says she, my Name is Ver-tue, who of my own Authority ' have invented this Tragedy for your Ad-'vantage; the glorious Mansion which 'you have feen destroyed, was the Pallace of Folly, wherein only remained the Imps of luxurious Iniquity; who pampering up lustfull Cytherea, were always 'Persecutors of chast Diana; my Society 'they ever disdained, and contumeliously fmothered my Temples with the Con-tagious Incest of Debauchery; amongst which diabolical Regiment Perjury was familiar, Swearing no Sin, Pride a Pearl, Luft a Lord, Ambition a Saint, and Treachery a Goddels; but now my Sons their immoderate Pride is past, their unchast Defires extenuated, their Satanical Oaths drowned, their afpiring Ambition evaporated, their graceless Treachery abo furiously sent to the infernal Pit of everlasting Perdition; therefore beware by their subtle Devices, and let the Mirror

of their Misfortunes serve as an instance to impale you within the Circumserence

of Piety; and to the end, that being abfent, you may still ponder and premedi-

tate upon my Exhortations; here take this Paper, and observe such Divine

Counsel as I have therein prescribed.

Which having faid; she in the twinkling of an Eye elevated her self in the Air, and so a Cloud o'er-vailing her in the Cincture of his Embracements, she immediately vanished.

Our Princes aftonished hereat, took up the Paper, and opening it, found these

Rules contained in it.

Build the Foundation of thy Faith upon Purity and Piety, that thy Zeal be not eclipfed with the Contagion of Idolatry, but rather perfumed with the weet Incense of Sincerity.

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the most assured step to obtain Felicity.

3. Conceal thy Secrets in the Closet of thy Breast, least rashly displaying them to others, thou produce the prejudice of thine own Tranquillity.

4. Fly Ambition, as the Poyson of the Sense; and detest Envy, as the Canker of

thy Contemplations.

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der Repentance; but loath a lascivious Courtezan, as the Scourge of Iniquity.

6. In thy Actions be faithfull; left being blemished with Reproach thou impair

thy Reputation.

7. Honour thy Prince as God's Anointed; and if occasion present, live and dye for thy Country.

8. Detest Vain-glory, as the Venom of Sin, and abolish Superstition as the Cloak

of Ungodliness.

Which having read; and knowing the facred Influence thereof tended to the e-stablishing of their Celestial Tranquillity, they so imprinted it in their Memories, as it suturely should serve for a senced Circumference, to retain them within the Confines of Piety; so as triumphing that Fortune had presented them with so facred

an Instance, they very joyfully departed But wan Aurora, the Daughter of Thetin had no fooner skipp'd from the Bowers of Neptune, and faluted the Excellency of transplendant Phæbus, but our Princes a fresh prepared themselves for their Journey: when early in the purpled Morn, when radiant Titan begin to give his Welcome to the verdant Mountains; the Satyrs, Fawns and Nymphs, danced thro' the Forrests, and dolefull Philomela warbled forth her Tragedy; they were by a foft Wind, which caused the tender leaves to quaver, made acquainted with the pleafant Sound of a ravished Cornet; the delicious tripple Eccho whereof, redoubling through the thickness of a curled Grove there next adjoining, gave fuch a gracefull Harmony to the aforefaid Melody, that our Princes were perforce constrained to find out the faid unknown excellent Orphens, to the end he might for a while recreate their diffempered Senies, with the rare exquisiteness of his praise-worthy Art: And fo directing their Courses by their attentive Ears, they at last arrived to the Prospect of a fair Valley, in the midst thereof ran most leisurely a filver Stream, whose Banks in equal distance were before with

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with fruitfull Lemon-Trees; on the Branthes whereof, they might afar off efpy he yellow Citrons naturally growing: which delightfull pleasant Prospect so well contented their youthfull Imaginations, that immediately they bent their Course directly to the aforesaid Arboury; where entring, they espied this famous Musician, a beautifull young Boy, apparelled in white, and crowned with a Lawrel-Garland, and fet upon a flowery Bank, close by the River's side, unto whose Melody most attentively list ning, they at last in a fragrant Bower of Eglantine, espied an aged Father, which as it feemed by the Furrows of his Face, had in his tender years endured many distastfull Calamities; his Habit was of black Sables, which reaching not for low as his Knees, was about his Walt begirt with a Willow Striple; his Visage was pale and wan, and his fnowy Beard descended almost to his forrowfull middle: in his hand he held a Brazeil Staff, which was the feeble Supporter of his withered Age; and before him, on a Table of Swanlike Alablaster lay open Burton's Anatomy of Melancholly, gilded and extraordinary beautifull, whereon in reading he folitarily bussed the Chimera of his tormented Brain:

Brain; which Profpect as foon as our Prin. The a ces espied, being transported with desire to know the Cause of his disconsolate Rese School tirement, they boldly entred; where in heir Phy terrupting him from his earnest Study, Prince Palmo addressed himself to him as followeth.

10st Venerable Father, if our audacious Arrival have disturbed your Study, or our Presence your Patience; webefeech you to pardon the first, though a rash Attempt; and excuse the Second, as being an unwilling Enterprize: Travellers ears are, you know, Lovers of Novelties, and are as earnest in fatisfying their Curiofity, as the Antipodes is of the Sun's Brightness; therefore Reverend Sir, we earnestly beseech you to relate to us the Occasion of this solitary Retirement, and the Motive which 'induced you to embrace this auftere Life; and also to afford us so much favour, as we may under the support of your Goodness, erect our Residence, for a while; and fo avoiding the scandalous imputation of Vagabonds, betake our Resolutions to the obtaining of peacefull Tranquillity.

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The antient Father perceiving by his beeches, that he had been trained up in the School of Vertue; and also judged by their Physiognomy they were issued from the me noble Extraction, very freely, but with a Gravity which seem'd to embellish is Speeches, return'd them this friendly teply.

Entlemen, your Arrival hath neither G' disturbed my study, nor your prefence prejudiced my patience; for as my Nature is not attractive to Severity on the one fide, fo on the contrary, I make use of the other at leisure, therefore to my forrowfull Cell you are both very welcome; and in respect a friendly Demand deferveth a familiar Reply, Know, Gentlemen, that the Bower which I have here caused to be erected within the incirculets of this fruitful Grove, I make my retiring place, when paffionate Fancies begin to furround my distemper'd Sences. This Boy being an Orphan, for Charity's fake I have caused to be instructed in shrill Musick, to the end that when my Eyes dazle with overmuch reading, he may with his loud Melody arouse my Spirits from the Thoughts

The Garden of Love, and ing she co Thoughts of Slumber, and so put me mind of my acustomed Duty, which of me, heart I immortally owe to the forrow World, ful Shrine of my dead Saint, which molt-do in reme whilst she lived, I affected more dear of this than my felf; and being now dead, w honour with fuch ardent Fidelity, the have, as erected: future Ages shall have a meritorious In flance, to acknowledge, that till Death riod of and after, to my fair Excellina I remaine compleatly constant. Ah fweet Excellina! which facre Name when I repeat, enforceth m Cordial Bloud to distill from my forrow full heart, and also my brinish Tears to descend my penitent Cheeks; she! of The! was the only Daughter of a valourous Knight, whom I long courted with unfeigned Love, and at last having re ceived many bitter Repulses, obtain ned the enjoyance of her gracious Affection; whereof her Shrewish Step Mother being by Misfortune throughly advertised, as one that rather fought her ruine than advancement, the fo feverely watched her, and most inhumanely used her, that her Father being absent in a far Journey, the most tyrannously immurd her up in a Vestal Dungeon; where see-

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ing she could by no means obtain a fight of me, in bitter anguish, bidding the World, but most chiefly me, Farewel! most dolefully yielded Nature her due; in remembrance of whom, at the end of this Grove, in a fragrant Valley, I have, as Duty and Love prompted me, erected a Tomb, whereunto till the period of my days, I have vowed daily to offer her, not only my devout Oraifons, that I may quickly follow her, but also my throbbing Sighs, as repentant Witnell of my Calamity: therefore Gentlemen, if you please to afford so much time to walk thither, your Eye may be Spectators of that which I have with grief and aggravation discovered to you; and after give you fuch Instructions in your Travels, that doubtless, if the Celestial Influence cross not your Fortunes, you shall find them veryprofitable to you, and in your Adventures no way prejudicial

The two Princes returning him Thanks for his proffered Civilities, very willingly to his demand, foon condescended, and lowalking through Ranks of losty Cedars, which with their verdant Branches beauti-

fied the adjoining filver stream, they last arrived to a sacred Chapel, which wi Alablaster Walls circumferenc'd that gl rious Tomb; where entring, they espy it so adorned with munisscent curio Workmanship, that the view thereof drawthem speedily to approach near to it, whe they beheld the Body of it to be of Down white Ivory, whose Cover being of radent Jet, and upon it the Picture of Examina in crimson Colours, most ingenious pourtraicted, and under her Feet, in Characters of Gold, enamell'd with Telling this Epitaph.

Within this Ivory Tomb doth lye
The Phænix of pure Modesty,
Sweet Excelline! whose Beauty rare
With Helen's Fame may well compare;
Nay, Helen's Fame surpassing sure,
Which did the Grecians Love procure;
Being in Jove's Imperial sight
A Nymph excelling Juno bright:
Cut off by fatal Sisters Three,
In Confluence of Love's plaudite.
Therefore if any pass by this way,
And with penitential Tears do pray,
That she may in the Elizian Plain
Until Eternity remain,

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Still Crown'd with Hearts delicious for, And freed from rage of dire annoy. at gl

hich Epitaph they having no fooner ad; as also reviewing the Tomb and her figies, they very forrowfully departed to d out the ancient Mourner, who pursely attending their coming, took them the hand, the Tears appearing in his yes, with fome faltering in his Speech, he ontinued his Discourse.

' Ah Gentlemen! my Grief is fuch, that I loath my Life; and were it not too much offensive to my Soul, I could willingly be instrumental to my own untimely Martyrdom, but alas! I know that that would be a Sacrifice too abominable in the fight of Heaven; which is the only Rein that withdraws me from executing my Resolutions: For why. though I live, I live discontented, and by my Death my Grief would enjoy a period. Should I, the most miserable of all Mankind, be the occasion of so much Vertue's Destruction? or, by my means should to noble a Virgin be deprived of her future Felicity; no, Delmon; resolve not to live, but dye in memory of her

Martyrdom; for fo fhall thy Aggravat ons end, and thy everlafting Joys con mence.

Our two Princes, feeing him launch of fo far in the diversity of amorous Sorton thought it requifite to recall him from h passionate Sadness; and interrupting him Thalmeno began as followeth.

Enerable Sir, I should think the el Delm fects of amorous Contemplation mew fhould be now through Age, purger ecause from your Memory, and the remem im to brance of past Pleasures dryed up in Ob is for livion; for it is not for you, which are with he ready to falute the Grave, to facrifice ell, a Sighs to Cupid; but rather for juvenile shis I blood to fight under the Banner of Beau villin ty. Remember therefore with you with a felf, that Venus by Apelles's Boy was pain ted with fresh Colours, and not with withered Visage; and though Vulcan of fered to the Shrine of Juno, yet he at ial acknowledged his Fault, and was for hi 'Simplicity laugh'd at by Jupiter: There fore Sir, consider now with your self that that fair Excellence whom you ado red, is now extinct, and cannot by any

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nortal means be again revived; in repect whereof, pray dry up those Tears, and forget any more to devote your Oraisons to the Image of Cytherea: thus fighting against Concupiscence, your Actions may approve you to be unspotted for the Celestial Regions, and while OW tracing on this Earthly Vale of Misery, in to observe a blissfull gracefulness of aged staidness.

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Delmon perceiving he was answered on mewhat roundly, instantly wept afresh, get ecause their exhortive Speeches touch'd im to the quick: But at last comforting Ob is forrowfull Muse with patience, he art with his Tears requested them to enter his ith his Tears requested them to enter his fire cell, and to accept of such homely Fare willingly agreed; and so deluding the time with a familiar Conference, they a long aim ime solaced themselves in amorous Prathe; till at last Repast being ended, and he Princes ready to depart, Delmon, with a much Freedom as his Passion could perhit hit, at their Farewell gave them these Intractions.

Heroick Gentlemen! feeing your Refolutions

ers are Ladies cious as if D with t ing of quick viour, Th vour fee ea Land Vine, Corn grant Veft Garm with alfo,t white Rich their Flocks, not like Baal's Priefts, to Daff place their Religion upon diabolical Ido Park latry, but to ground their Zeal upon that Deer Celeffia

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Celestial Temple, whose Foundation and no Pavement, is Faith and Purity; whose Doors and Arches, Devotion and Amith ty; whose Pillars and Windows, Piery and Sincerity; whose Galleries and Tow-Ou acl ers are Glorification and Humility: their 1119 Ladies and Damfels are likewise both gra-Oh cious and fair, and generally fo chafte, ag as if Diana and Nature had adorned them 121 with the Pride of their Excellency; beije ing of Gesture, modest; of Capacity, mo quick, of Quality, kind; and of Behaun viour, courteous.

Therefore Gentlemen, if you direct your Course thither, you shall generally fee each live by the Fertileness of his own Land; each reap the Fruit of his own Vine, and Content fit smiling in every Corner. There may you behold the fra-grant Fields adorned with their verdant Vestures, the lofty Trees with their gay Garments, and the delicious Arbours with their diaper'd Treasure of Flora; as alfo, the Mountainso'er-veil'd with Snowwhite Flocks, their Meadows with the Riches of Ceres, and their Valleys with

Daffadils and prime Flowers. In their Parks you may see Regiments of Fallow Deer running untaken; and in their For-

rests you may behold Troops of Nymphs trace unravished; and to be brief, on every Bush harmonious Birds warbling forth their Melody.

Thalmeno and Parma perceiving that Delmon had finished his Speech, being transported with the Report of so flourishing a Kingdom, giving him Thanks for their kind Entertainment, and for his vertuous Exhortations, very joyfully departed: where travelling a long time theseunknown Countries, they at last very fortunately arrived to the chiefest City of Zanfara, where the Court then was; and taking up their Lodging in the best Inn which the City did afford, they there some three days rested, to refresh themselves of their forepast, troublesome Travels; and after having, as was requisite, given Almighty Jove most humble Thanks for their fate Arrival, they betook themselves to their private Parley, where Thalmeno began as followeth.

Dear Coufin! we are now in a Kingdom far from our native Country; and therefore it behooves us to fettle our Proceedings upon the Main of some Refolution void t theref excee tues, betake

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lution, to the end we may futurely avoid the Receipt of ensuing Missortunes,
therefore understanding that the King
exceedingly delighteth in Heroical Vertues, it were not in my Opinion unsit to
betake our selves under the Umbrage of
his Service, where cherishing our valourous Magnanimity, we may produce the
Demonstrations of dignisted Princely
Atchievements, whose effectual Apparitions in the Eyes of all Spectators may
justly purchase us the Title of gallant
Admiration.

Prince Palmo hearing Thalmeno utter this Resolution, very instantly returned him this Answer.

Most affectionate Cousin! I agree to what you are pleased to determine; therefore let us set apart all Delays, and prosser our selves to the King's Service; this day I understand he hunts in a For-rest near adjoyning the Court; where if you please, we may present him with a submissive Supplication, thereby to intrude our selves within his Princely Service; but let our Names be obscured under the Cloud of Secrecy; so that That-

meno may be termed Thalmo; and my Name of Palmo changed to Plivio; justifying our selves to be Knights of Arabia.

This pleasant Invention was well liked of by Thalmeno; so solacing their Fancy, they forthwith indicted this Supplication, which by a young Knight, they sent to the King's Majesty, the Tenor whereof solloweth.

To the most puissant, famous and flourishing Prince Brilion, King of Zansara.

Royal Sir,

Your magnanimous Fame, by the 'Herald of Report, have arrived to many Cavalier's Understanding, in such a Degree, that they not only admire at your Princely Valour, but likewise wonder at your vertuous Animosity; so as their Thoughts burning with desire to be made Possessor of your gracious Presence, and their Resolutions slaming with applause to be Spectators of your Heroical Actions, they have upon the Altar of Fame, long since devoted their Resolutions to direct their Course to your Country; amongst whom, we Thalmo and

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Royal Flower of Fidelity.

Plivio, two Knights of Arabia, our Capacities being penetrated with the Report of your Affability, have undertaken this Journey, to be made Spectators of your renowned Personage; so that being arrived to your flourishing Palace, we most humbly beseech you to accept usinto your dignified Service; affuring you, that our Valour and Fidelity shall be such, as shall well testifie our Resolutions to take their Offspring from Magnanimity: fo imploring your Majesty to admit us into your Royal Service, and to honour us with that Title to be invested your Ser-'vants, we in all humility, proftrating our Lives to your gracious Command remain.

Your Mujesties most devoted Vassal

Thalmo and Plivio

This Supplication was no fooner prefented to the King, but forthwith he commanded the two foreign Knights to be admitted to his prefence, where falutin them in such a manner equivolent to he Royalty, he very courteously accepted their voluntary Service: which samous acceptance adding applausible Hope to ou

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Princes Expectations, made them conjewith the Aure, they were now mounting the Steps of Honour: But to conclude; their va-Iorous Actions, vertuous Demeanour, gallant Comportment, heroical Courteoufness, and Princely Gravity, did so conque the Affections not only of the King, of the Nobility and Gentry likewife; the in a manner all the Island of Cicilia effecmed them worthy the Prize of Olympian Victory; which by often Demonstrations of their Gallantry, did fo gain the King's Favour, that he preferred them both and appointed Thalmeno to attend on the Princess Athelia his Daughter; and established Plivio to be Governour of Ithica Castle, wherein the fair Princess Mersilva, Daughter unto Samor, King of Bobemia, was retained Prisoner: But leaving Pliwib and the Princess Mersilva, to Fortune's Protection, we will for a while discourse of Thalmo and the fair Athelia.

In a pleasant Morn, before the Pearled Dew was exhal'd by the shining Rays of Golden Phabus, when the fragrant Flowers were displaying the pride of their Beany, and the melodious Birds on the fweling Bushes straining forth their Melody, t chanced that Thalmo, being captivated

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with the Beauty of Athelia his Princess, betook himself to the Fields, as well to refresh his tormented mind, as to make the slowry Meadows acquainted with his amorous Fancies; when directing his pensive Course to the verdant Forrests, he at last arrived to a spacious Beach-tree, whose Branches expelling the Darts of Titan, made a compleat Shade for all tyred Passengers to repose themselves; which pleasant Umbrage corresponding with Thalme's Passions, he cast himself down on a Bank of Flowers, and with an ardent Affection repeated these Verses.

WE all to conquering Beauty bow;
its pleafing Powers admire;
But I ne'er faw that Face till now,
that like hers could inspire:
Now I may say, I have met with one,
amazes all Mankind,
And like Men gazing on the Sun,
with too much Light am blind.

Soft as the tender moving Sighs, when longing Lovers meet, Like the divining Prophet's Wife, and like blown Roses sweet: the Garden of Love, and

Majestick, gay, reserv'd, yet free, each happy Night a Bride, A Mean like awfull Majesty, and yet no Spark of Pride.

The Patriarch to gain a Wife chafte, beautiful and young, *
Serv'd fourteen years a painfull Life, and never thought it long:

Ab! were she to reward such care, and Life so long should stay,

Not Fourteen, but four hundred years, would seem but as one day.

Having thus vented his Passions, and made the Forrests acquainted with the praludium of his Malady, he forthwith, as being submerged with the variety of amorous Contemplation, resolved to return: but Fortune willing to smooth up his Fancies in an Extase of Contentation, so ordained, that her illustrious Highness the Princess Atbelia, with her Troop of Ladies, should travel that way: Glad of this heavenly News, blushing a little because the Celessial Object created in him those Raptures, but elevating his Resolutions upon the Wing of Honour, and investing his Courage with the Consideration

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of Magnanimity, he audaciously determined to present her with the Idea of hi-Affection; by vertue whereof, at last finding her sequestred from her attendant La, dies, and resident within a Myrtle Bower in midst whereof She gazed on a silver Fountain, there conveyed by Dame Nature; he casting aside all effeminateness, took this opportunity, of addressing himself to her; after those Ceremonies due to her Royal Person were ended; he began as followeth.

Oyal Madam! when by the aid of N Fortune Lespied so much Beauty, 'I immediately felt my tender Breaft to be inspired with the endurance of a Lo-'vers Passion, and to such a degree, that these Eyes ever fince conceiving their chiefest Contentation at fo divine an Object, hath so firmly fworn my Fidelity to the Celestial Service of your super-excellent Deity, that I utterly abandon the Contemplation of all others, and fincerely betake my inward Devotions to the Shrine of your Perfections: At the appearance of fo much brightness, my Senses were so much captivated, that (Madam) all I am now capable of is

The Sarden of Love, and

only to admire you; my Birth is such that if known to you, perhaps might create in you a rendrance of Accomplish ment to my Breaft's expectation; upo which I will not now descant, because the motive thereof shall not move you to term me by the Phrase of a pevish In finuator: But Dear Madam! if my Sighs might disclose, my Tears explain or my Passions discover, with what a zealous Flame of affectionate Love my Heart possesses in resemblance of your facred Idea, I not only think, but refolve that your gracious felf would at the first Report, not only recompence my Defert with the Reward of my Merits, but also repay my Fidelity with the remuneration of your Affection; whereof till the Gods shall by inipiration partly advertise you, I will till the period of my 'limited Pilgrimage, remain as constant to the fair Princels Athelia, as I wish she fhould be affable to perplexed Thalmo.

The Princess, over-veiling her Lilly-Cheeks with a Crimson Dye, on a sudden as much blush'd as Diana when she espied unlook'd for Atteon; and so metamorphosing her pleasant Physiognomy to a melan-cholly

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cholly Complexion, (being altogether unacquainted with such amorous Encounters) bending her Brows, within the Furrows of whose Lineaments Anger sate triumphant, she very sharply return'd him this Answer.

W Hy Thalmo, Said she, hath my too much Kindness made thee so arrogant, or my undeferved Favour fo 'prelumptuous, that thou now givest Wings to thy Tongue, to run absolutely so lavish? hath my Affableness emboldened thee to aspire so high, as to declare thy 'Affection to one so much thy Superiour? 'Hath Idleness in my Service taught thee ' to adorn thy Tongue with Flattery? and is there no Object for thee to aim at, but me? Ah! fond Thalmo, and therefore fond, because posses'd with a pevish Fancy: As thou derideft my Beauty, I will 'laugh at thy folly; and in accounting me fair, I will efteem thee frivolous. 'thy Birth, know, I difdam to as nothing, and thy felf as less: if thou hast factin-! ced Sighs, or shed tears for my take, why expect a Recompence where there is no Satisfaction to be made; and hereafter be more wifer, than to ingender a con

The Garden of Love, and

brief, refrain from profecuting thy au-

dacious Folly, or else I will use such means that the King my Father shall qualifie your Courage, by nipping the Blos.

foms of your flourishing Estate.

This thundering Answer proceeding from a Princesses Mouth, might doubtless have made many fresh-water Soldiers retire for fear; but our valorous Thalmodistaining to quit the Siege for the first Repulse; repairing his Sense, and furnishing his Muse with a fresh Supply, very boldly continued his Combat as followeth.

Madam, if your Royal Highness conjectures, that in discovering my Affecti-

ons I flatter your Merits with a Shew of derifion, you greatly wrong my Honour,

in respect my Inclination was never at-

tractive to so base an Enormity; for what I protest in words, my effects shall ma-

nifest to be Truth, against the prou-

dest Champion which durst undertake to maintain the contrary: therefore, Dear

Madami, let not an unconstant Thought

so obscure your Virgin's Breast, that for my faithfull Affection you term me an

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ingratefull Servant; for if the Flower of my Affections was predestinated for your self alone, disdain not him, Madam, which in Heart, hath long since vowed to adore you, and to whom he dedicates his whole Devotions; therefore reward not that Passion with Scorns, whose Greatness you cannot doubt, but kindly receive from me so pure a slame of Love, which is for ever constant.

'Thalmo, said she, if thy Affection were equal to the tenor of thy Speeches, methinks you should at my Request bury the Repetition thereof in the Grave of Silence, and not fo audaciously be guilty of so great a presumption; if thy Phrase of Glozing were so unseigned as 'thou demonstrates, or thy lovely Passions perfect Messengers of a facred Confrancy, yet my Resolutions can never be ' diverted from reaping the enjoyment o a fingle Life, which I have already upor the Altar of Vesta imposed; my Defire rather honour the Image of chaft Diana than adore the Shrine of lascivious Ve nus; rather inclining to the one's Princi ples, than esteeming of the others Pre cepts: therefore Thalme, fince my min

befeech cannot be subject to servile Love, let m 'Commands be a Mediatrix to cause the to give a folemn Leave to thy pevish En-

terprize.

Thalmo perceiving the Princess, preten. ded to shroud her felf under the Cloud of a folitary Climate, and embrace the auflere Deity of a Saint-like Devotion, very earnesty, but with submission, addressed him to her.

Ah! Madam, if my words could decypher my Passion, or my Tongue express my Affection, I should then account my felf most happy, whereas now I esteem my self of all Men most unfortunare. Unfortunate I may well fay, in that the Idea of my Fidelity is obscured in the Milt of Incredulity; which if you would fincerely weigh in the Ballance of Reason, I assure my self the Zeal of my vertuous Constancy would remove the residence of your Mistrust, and as absolutely inform you, that my amorous Flame, which none, but fo charming a Goddess as your self can extinguish fprings from true Fidelity: That harsh Note, of your living a reclusive Life, I befeech

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befeech you, Madam, to recall; for the possessing of your presence, and the obtaining of your Commands, would yield me the fatisfaction of my trembling defire; fo that, Madam, if you please to confer that Honour on me, of being your dignified Servant, it shall suffice; and upon that pleasant Foundation will I erect Trophies of delightfull Hope; and till my Merits shall acquire more favour of your Princely Goodness, I am resolved immortally to live and die in your Service, and to attend on your facred Perfon, with fuch firm Fidelity, vertucus 'Affection, and submissive Loyalty, that your fair felf, and the King your Royal Father, shall one day bless the hour of 'my Arrival, and have just Cause to ac-'knowledge that the Sympathy of our Affections was predeffinated to be united by the Condescention of Celestial Deity.

The Princess Arbelia well noting with what fervency he vented his Passions, began immediately to produce some Motion of Compassion; yet in respect he should not conceive any spark of Hope, where there was no performance meant to be effected, bitterly return'd him this sharp Reply.

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ces; in fo doing, I will perfuade my felf

to pardon this your Crime, and exempt

the memory of it out of my rembrance. Thalma · Ah M

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Thalmo perceiving the Princess had finied her cruel Oration, immediately said her.

'Ah Madam! is it possible, that so much Beauty and Cruelty can dwell together? and it is possible, that each being others Enemy, they thould both feek my ruine; and fo in a feditious Sympathy triumph o'er my Martyrdom? Ah, Madam! make not my fall your Felicity, nor my ruine your rejoycing! but vouchlafe an eye of pity to behold my Constancy, the fervency of my Fidelity, and the respect of my Affections? confider, Madam, the purity of my pretence, and the defire of my expectation! and think, that if Thalmo live, he must love the fair Aikelia, and though she hate, yet Thalmo must needs love: What was predestinated for me, I must needs endure, yet in suffering her Repulse, I in humility die, to fee my Fortunes check'd with Athelia's Frown. Dear Madam! distill into your heart the Motion of piry, and amidst the showers of your Anger, let the re-splendent Sun of Favour evaporate your Wrath! let the Dew of Patience fo mollife your Cruelty, that I may at last reap that

that happiness I have so long desire

The Prin d her TI nses; an Thalmo, faid she, I now see thou ar flew fro Servant to Folly, and canft not be ce to th empted until thy time of Innocency ere leave expired. I perceive 'tis in vain to diffua almo's P where fenceles Absurdity doth con s fo fude mand; and it will be ineffectual, who elystorm 'I fee Exhortations are held as Toys, an nce to a Requests obeyed as Trifles. I am for ng the ti that I have remained with you to lon er, pro in respect thou art blinded with a friv lous Humour; which I fee springer orld . rather from a fond Understanding, the s breaft any way from a tormented Spirit; be prtable (however, it nothing avails the advance ment of thy Demand, because unlawful and therefore to be rejected.

thelia, Dear Madam! repli'd Thalmo, if eve ad ravi the fighs, tears, love, fidelity, or affe ne Co tion of a tormented Lover, may gam cacceptance in the contemplation of his Saint; I befeech you to grant me the accomplishment of my vertuous Defire, that I may once in all Chaftity of Marriage enjoy your facred Person, which above the World I chiefly adore!

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The Princess told him, his talk diffurd her Thoughts, and his speeches her nses; and so in a disdainful manner, flew from him: When directing her ce to the Court, we will for a while ere leave her, and a little discourse of almo's Passions: Who seeing the Prinis so suddainly departed, thereat immedielystormed, changinghis pleasant Countence to a pale Complection; and repenng the time that ever the Queen his Moer, produced him into this miserable forld continually crying out upon crudeftiny, and very often fighing, as though sbreaft were overwhelmed with infuportable Calamities; sometime falling from ghs to tears, and then from tears to fighs gain; fomtimes repeating the name of thelia, and then closing up his Eyes, though the Oracle of that celeftial Word ad ravish'd his Senses with too many diine Cogitations: At last he very pensivewithdrew himself to his Closet, where ease his tormented mind, he resolved write, and fend her there Lines

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I lik'd and ventur'd many a Vow, but durst not think of Love: Till Beauty charming every Sense, an casie Conquest made; And show'd the vainess of Defence,

when Athelia doth invade. But ob! ber colder Heart denies. the thoughts ber looks inspire;

And while in Ice that Frozen lies, ber Eyes darts only Fire; Between Extreams I am undone,

like Plants to Northward fet, Furnt by too violent a Sun,

or strav'd for want of beat.

Which being ended, fealed up, ar whe directed, he hafted to a Lady of the Pring cess Athelia's, whose Physiognomy promis'd the Accomplishment of a faith ful performance, and imbolden'd his hat to request her to deliver it to the Prin has cels, to which she voluntarily condescen ded; and so finding her very solitary her Chamber, she with an humble rev rence effected her promise. The Princess with first was unwilling to receive it as not know del

from whence it came; but unripping Seal, she found who it was fent it; and ha Crimfon Blush, commanded Leviher Woman to depart; when locking door, The cast her felf on her dainty d; and read the Contents before repeamany times the perused it, and often it, and at last uttered to her self these flions.

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Most unfortunate Atbelia! if thy lears might affuage thy pains, or thy ghs thy Miseries; thou mightest then my thy Tortures, and with patience ear the insupportable Burthen of thy Calamities: but alas! as the first cannot perform the one, nor the second effect he other, thou mayest esteem thy Estate he more unfortunate, and cutfothe hour wherein thou didft first espy that charm-Pring Face of vertuous Thalmo; Thalmo, I ay, whose valourous Actions, heroical Disposition, and comely Deportment Print that thou with the pale-fac'd Moon, in Obscurity, dost take thy pleaant Light of Hope from the resplendant Sun, which is only Thalmo; remember cels with what fervency of affectionate Fi-

ceptance; and call to mind the pearle Tears, dolefull Sighs, and passionate A gonies which as Messengers of faiths Constancy, he sent to witness before thine Eyes the Miseries he endured, an bury not in Oblivion his wan Complex on, hollow Apects, and repining De fpair; which as Sollicitors, might hav loft t caused the most obdurate Heart to relent tothe and have produc'd a Motion of pity hy But wretched Athelia! forget not the Guide proud Repulses, sharp Answers, bitte paffic Threats, and obstinate Denyals thou ga with vest his Enterprize; which when I con fider, I burst with Anger, and condem my felf of imprudent Ingratitude, in re warding his primitive Presence with In humanity, and croffing the Proceeding lemr of his Hopes with unmerited Inaffability Indeed, I must confess, relinquishing ob flinate Coynels, my Passion was the magnanimous for Thalmo, although Modefty would not permit me to discover it; and now 1 do adore him, as the fa cred Image to whom I pay all my Devo tions. Thalmo, and none but him, shall live in my remembrance, nor none bu him alone can boaft of fuch a Conquest: though Pride at first seem'd to reign in

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ny Breast, when I refus'd his Precepts, will now be as affable in accepting his Affection; though then pertinacious in Affection; though then pertinacious in length lengt efractory in not being attentive to his Defires, yet now as tractable to hearken of his Demands; but whether, Athelia, off thou wander? what Lunatick Folly loth possess thy Senses? or whether runs hy Wits a wandering without their buide, Discretion? Hath an amorous Passion so so lovely Toys so instantion with Fancies, or lovely Toys so instantion of the World know it, thou would'the condemned of pevissh Levity? Is she which was so long courted, now became a Oratory Suitor? and must she plead the him for Love, who petitioned her for affection? Ah Athelia! but such is thy sate, and therefore contradict not that which the Gods have already decreed; wishe thy self with what is contingent of thee; and hereafter seek by some factorial with thy effect of Thalmo, to the end that his present the same of the condemned of the plead of the same of the s

fence may expell those Mists of Sorrow Dev which doth to intoxicate thy Sences ten

and extinguish the Birth of arden T Flames, which doth begin to fcorchthe lea

Substance.

etur Levina, her Woman, suddenly rush'd in s it as being fent from the Queen her Mother and wondering she should be fo long absent life ! Athelia perceiving the time had deceive ned her, instantly 'role up, and clearing up he who Countenance the best she could, fail'd not ons, according to her Duty with all Celerity, land to hasten to the Queen, where contrary with the her Expectation, she received the pout check.

Athelia, hath too much Freedom made his R

you forget your felf? or is it some ex-us traordinary Affairs which hath retain'd pand ' you fo long from my presence? was you iter

with your Tutoress, Lady Flerina, or the

from whence came you?

Madam, May it please your Majesty, and (replyed the Princess) I have long fince of

been invited to fee the Lady Fulvial sho Chamber, and this morning unexpected er l

she came for me, your Majesty being unf

'your Closet I was loath to disturb you and and fo I departed without taking my ec

leave, my Lady Flerina was then at her nel

Devotions

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Devotions, and so only Iffida my Maid attended me.

rden rden This Reply soon satisfied the Queen; the bleaving Athelia in her presence, we will eturn to tormented Thalmo, who being d'din s it were plundg'd in Athelia's Beauty, ther nd almost drown'd in her Affection, as ofent Iso hearing no Answer from Levina; storeiv's ned in such a manner, that his Familiars, p he who not being acquainted with his Passid not ons, thought he would run lunatick, and erity, lance with the Skies, or else stark mad

trang with the Man in the Moon, to caper athis out the Clouds; for such Rage posses'd is Sences, and fuch Anger over powr'd made his Reason, that he was even bereav'd of e ex- his Understanding; all Company he a-

tain'd pandoned, and detested the Light, as fuis you inter when he transcended in a Cloud to daa, or le Vulcan, thereby to enjoy Juno: His peeches were far-fetch'd fighs, unless now

jesty, and then he would breath forth the Name fince of Athelia; his Laughter was metamor-douis phos'd to Tears, and no Motion could en-ected er his Imagination, but the refemblance ing it of Athelia; his Chamber feem'd tiresome, and his Bed uneasse; his torments might be compar'd to the Tortuges of Ixion, only at he of this excepted, that he had a fairer Deity

in Athelia, then Ixion had in Proferpina when he waked, the Image of Athelia flood before him, whose Figure he adored, as the only solace of his Hearts Contentment; being in his Study, pensively Passionate, he would suddenly arise, and ask, Who was there? as if Athelia had been always knocking at the Door: From thence in an affectatious Hnmour, he would forthwith direct his Course towards the Fields, and there most forrowfully to the fenceless Trees, decypher forth the manner of her Cruelty; then begging Pardon for fo great a Crime, he immediately fell to Singing in Praise of her; and from thence in a wavering Condition, would enter into another Humour of recording his Paffions: Amongst the rest, as I very well remember, he once rang'd into a very pleasant Forrest, and so from thence to Mountains next adjoining, and again to Valleys, as his Weakness led him; when being overwhelm'd with innumerable amorous Fancies, on the Grafs, taking out his Pen and Paper, writ these Lines.

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Bright Athelia is the Saint

whom in Devotion I implore;

But she is deaf to my Complaint,

her Silence tells I must give o'er:

Is it my Zeal's not fervent Thought?

or what I ask'd, Offence has given?

No Word, but Sigh, or Tear with't brought such Rhetorick, as prevails with Heaven.

The latter then must be the Cause;

Yet how could that her Anger move;

So harmless my Petition was,

I only ask'd of her, her Love;

And now the fatal Reason's found,

the greater Pain I must endure;

Such Folly tis to search the Wound,

that does admit no hopes of Cure.

With Grief and Anguish I'm perplex'd,
so sad my Case on either side;
I had not liv'd, had I not ask'd:
'tis worse than Death, now I'm Deny'd:
Tell me of neither Racks nor Wheels;
'tho' sharp, they bring no lasting Pain;
Nor Torments like to that he feels,

Nor Torments like to that he feels, who loves, and is not lov'd again.

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Which having ended, forgetting both Pen and Paper, he resolved to range further into the unknown Forrests: But as stying Time gives a Period to all Earthly Accidents, so in roving from Place to Place, he at last arrived to a fair Cyprus Tree; where resolving to Sleep, he was no sooner down, but he arose again instantly, determining to depart, but desirous of writing a few more Lines, he busily search'd for his Pen and Paper; but not finding it, drew out his Sword, and with the point of it, upon the Bark of a Tree, Carved these Lines.

Go soft Desires, Love's gentle Progeny,
and on the Heart of fair Athelia sieze:
Then quickly back return again to me,
since that's the Cure of my Disease;
But if you miss her Breast whom I adore,
Then take your flight, and visit me no more.

Which having ended, he very often kist it, as if there remained some figur'd resemblance of Athelia's Perfections: So leaving the Field, he returned to his Meancholly Habitation; where we will leave him to the Fancy of his Affections, and a title Discourse of almost forgotten Pal-

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Palma being appointed by King Brilion, Deputy Governour of Ithica Castle, wherein the beautiful Mersiboa was kept Prisoner; having his Heart inspired with Compassion, grievously troubled to see Porus, his Governour, fo rigorously use her: For, whereas the King did allow her a decent Chamber, pleafant Walks, a Table answerable to her Person, and a Damofel to attend her; he on the contrary abridg'd her of these Privileges, placing her in an obscure Dungeon; where the thought of fo detestable a Damp, might have hurried Alexander himself, into a Labyrinth of Despair: For instead of pleasant Walks, she had only the Liberty of her close Prison; her Diet was very homely, and scarce enough to affist Nar ture; and instead of a Damsel to attend her, was basely served by an ugly Russian, in the Furrows of whose angry Brows, envious Wrath fat Triumphant; having from his Governour a strict Order, to hinder all those, which in her Distress, should give her Relief. Mersilva perceiving her hard Usage,

Meritiva perceiving her hard Ulage, Exclaimed on Fortune, deploring that ever she had attained to so dismal an Aspect! Weep she might, for there was no

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Spectator:

Spectators of her Lamentation; and well might she Lament, and cast forth Sighs; for there was none to Comfort her in the depth of her Miseries! for if at any time she bemoan'd her self to her rigorous Keeper, with forcible Arguments to induce him to pity, she was immediately check'd with a Catalogue of Reproaches; alledging, that her Entertainment exceeded her Merits: Which as a second Wound, did so transport her Reason, to compleat Anguish, that with wringing Hands, and throbbing Sighs, she to her self breath'd out these Words.

PErplex'd Mersilva! thou hast just occion to acknowledge, how inconstant Fortune, doth at her Pleasure conduct Princes to the top of Prosperity; and immediatery turning the Needle of her Compass to another Point, doth violently rend the bark of their pristine Estate, against the dangerous Rocks of suture Perdition; where suffering Shipwrack, the Memory of their Happiness is presently overwhelm'd in the unmerciful Entrails of tyrannizing Destiny. Unfortunate Mersilva! in that Camelion Tragedy, thou art a principal Actores;

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well for the subject of thy Misery, hath as a ghs; Prologue mounted thee on the Theatre 1 the of Destruction: Most wretched Mersiltime va! when the Memory of thy Birth rous pierceth through the Thoughts of Confideration; and comparing past Honours, intely to prefent Calamities, what Terror of ies; Aggravation it doth apply to thy Hope, ceethou mayest well Conjecture; whereas nd, others can scarcely Presuppose. leat Ah, Desolate Mersilva! how are thy

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'Delights now Transmuted to melancho-'ly Contemplations? thy Pleafantness re-'vers'd to Mourning, and all thy former 'Pleasures metamorphos'd to Solitariness? 'Most certain it is, that Glory fades, aswell as flourishes; Beauty dies, as well as infults; and Honour withers, as the Flowers of the Field, which no fooner fipring forth with Titan, but die with What then is the World but a Cynthia. 'Labyrinth of Perplexities? What then is Dignity, but the Seat of Ambition? And what is Glory, but the Throne of 'Grandeur? Mersilva! such is the vicis-'fitude of this terrestrial Diadem, that be-

'ing produc'd in Sin, we profecute in Fol-'ly; and never forbear to detest Vertue, before we are ingulfed in the Stream of the Garden of Love, and

Vice: Therefore account thy Miseries as a Recompence predestinated for thy Fortune; thy Torments, as a Reward for thy Sin; and lastly, term thy Callamities, as a meritorious Affliction, projected for thy ill Conduct.

Which dolefull Words she uttered with fuch zealous Fervency, that the Report thereof, would have caused Disdain her felf, to have pitied her; for some times The walk'd in her miferable Cottage, and then instantly threw her felf on her Bed of Care, where drawing her Curtains close about her, one might adjudge it to be a Sepulcher, and her felf a Corpse therein interred: When again, reviving her Spirits, and remembring her Mifery, fhe would forrowfully Smile, and inftantly Rebuke her felf, for committing fuch Her Handkerchief she ofan Offence. ten wash'd with Tears, which trickled down her forrowfull Cheeks, and then immediately dried them, with fanning Wind on her Face, to enliven her Spirits: In which forrowfull manner she past the day, without being Comforted by the affiftance of any; untill at last the found. of her Complaint reach'd the Ears of

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Prince Plivio, which infus'd in him so much Relentation, that knowing her to be a Princess Royally descended, and Innocently committed, without being Guilty of any Crime, against the Crown or Kingdom of Zanfara; he being vanquish'd with Compassion, cry'd out,

Ruel Plivio! can Humanity fuffer fo "Beautifull a Princess as Mersilva to endure Imprisonment, and thou enjoy 'thy Liberty? or can the Dignity of that 'Divine Sex, obtain no more Favour at 'thy Hands, where thou canst afford Re-'lief? Are thy Senses so clouded with 'Obscurity, thy Eyes so darkned with Impiety, or thine Heart fo loaded with 'Cruelty, that her Tears cannot Sollicite 'to thee for her Freedom; or her Com-'plaints as Advocates of her Innocency, perfectly plead to thee for her speedy Enlargement? How will the World blame 'thee of Ingratitude, thy Conscience 'accuse thee of Rigour, and thy Thoughts condemn thee of Tyranny, when the odiousness of thy Fact, shall arrive to the Judgment-Seat of Reason; where 'thy Faults being descried, and thy Folly 'disclosed? What Shadow of Argument canst thou alledge for thy Excuse? or

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What Mask of Sensibility canst thou produce to o'er-veil thy Inhumanity? Confider with thy felf from whence thou 'art extracted; if from the Loins of a Woman, how comes it to pass, thou differest from so temperate a Nature. Plivio ! recall thy Sences to the Throne of Pity, and drown the rigorousness of 'thy Mind in the Gulf of Oblivion: Let Lenity be in thy Thoughts and Remorfe in thy Cogitations; and ungratefull Plivio, resolve, that to relieve the Diffressed is an operation of Charity; and to affift an afflicted Lady is worthy commendation. What though thy Governour is inhumane, must thou of consequence detest her? No Plivio, let not thy Cruelty obscure thy Liberality, nor let perverse Impiety overwhelm thy Affability, but rather let thy Actions favour of Friendship, and ler-thy Resolutions be qualified with Generosity; and in so doing, the Gods will esteem it an Act of Justice, hand all Mankind a glorious Compalion to fo much Vertue.

Upon the ground of which Resolution, inciting his Breast with the animosity of Honour,

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Honour, he resolved to visit the Princess Mersilva. Whereupon, he immediately directed his Course to the place where she forrowfully lay imprison'd: where he was no fooner entred, but he beheld her fitting on her Bed of Misery, having her Face? o'er-veil'd with a sable Scarf, as if she partly detefted to fee the appearance of delightfull Phæbus; when not fecurely fleeping, but rather dolefully flumbering, being by his presence disturbed from her pensive Contemplations, she forthwith raifed her felf from her Seat of Sorrow, and putting aside her Scarf, discovered a perfect Copy of transcendant Beauty, from whence her radient Eyes displayed their fplendant Influence, as fixed Stars, divinely feated in the Celestial Element, approaching to her, with an humble Reverence, he most courteously address'd himself, in these words.

fair presence, to crave pardon for my neglect of Duty, in deterring so long that Consolation I might have administred to you, which in this Castle I can claim some Privilege; but Dear Madam, impute it not wholly to my want of Care, for it was my Governour's Command

was the main Obstacle that kept me from prosecuting my Intentions; which now being removed by his Departure to the Court, Fortune has opportunely given me this Happiness of waiting on you, and of offering you all the Civilities which this Castle, or my Interest afford you; therefore Madam, if you please to recreate your self in the Gardens and Walks adjoining, I will attend you, and secure your facred Person from all harms and violence.

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The Princess Mersilva wondering at this unexpected Kindness, dying her Chrystal Cheeks with a Vermillion Blush, very courteously returned him this Answer.

Sir, my vanquish'd Hope, which hath been transported to the very brink of Despair, being now by your extraordinary Favours inspired with Consolation, doth for this your kind relief, render you Millions of Thanks for this unmerited Succour, and since you are pleased to afford me that happiness, I should be very unworthy to you, and much wanting to my self, if I did not accept of so great a Freedom, as to enjoy the Air of the fragrant Fields.

Physio perceiving her Inclination to walk

and take the Air, very courteously wook from her by the hand, and conducted her by a now Postern Gate through the Castle to the o the Walks, and from thence to the pleafant iven Arbours; where Mersilva delighting to you, range from Bank to Bank, and from Founlities tain to Bower, leaving in a manner no ford place therein unprospected, she at last arle to rived to a very fumptuous Fountain; and whose Walls being of glistering Alablaster, and and shining Marble, gave such a Grace rins to Mersilva's Eyes, that her Spirits at so pleasant a Prospect did then receive the this. long look'd-for Motion of delightfull Con-Ital tentment: At last hearing the Descent of ery fome iffuing Stream, which made a musical Harmony in falling to the Concavity ath of of the Earth, she began to trace round dithe circumference of the Fountain, where on, she espied on the East-side of it, two stately Pillars of Dove-white Ivory, being veler ry curiously carved and adorned with sparicious Guards of refin'd Azure, wherein to ewere enamell'd lovely Roses, and splendent Stars of artificial Ingenuity; on the ng tops of the Pillars stood two Female Imaat ae ges, most industriously painted, well refembling the Graces, each holding in their

hands a little Vane, where on one fide was

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painted Minerva, and on the other Diana, and joining their other hands, which they elevated over their heads, did support the third Grace, being crowned with an O. lympian Garland, holding in both her hands a Table of Celestial Hue, seated in a Frame of illustrious Argent, from out whole fix globy Paps, refembling for whiteness the Snow which doth embrace the Pyrenian Mountains, rush'd forth Chrystal Spouts of filver Water; whereat she being for a while delighted, at last perceiv'd betwixt the two Pillars a Geometrical Door, where entring, she beheld a small Mountain in form of a Pyramid, which reach'd to the top of the Fountain, from whence Nature yielded forth many a Vein of weeping Water, which by degrees distilling down the Rock, was thorough filver Pipes by Art most curiously conveyed to the Graces Paps: which Merfilva feeing, shut the door, and refolved to depart; but by chance, reflecting her fight, as unwilling o foon to take her Farewell, glancing her eyes at random upon the perfection of he upper Grace, she, either deluded with shadow, or posses'd with a Fancy, imhediately conceived, that she faw her arficial Eyes naturally reflect in the Model

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of their Influence, and so being in Imagination induced that it was fo, or elfe thinking that at the request of some second Pygmalion, the Goddess Venus had with Life likewise inspir'd her; she thought with her felf, that the faid Grace, by some means or other, had interiorly fome lively feeling of natural Sence, and applying it as the Allusion of her Fancy drave her, conjectured, that she invited her more near to approach: in respect whereof, mounting a step which stood very close before the Graces, she thought with them. but especially the uppermost, to have some private Conference; where being elevated the presently forgat her felf, as if some sacred Deity had so before predestinated it, and after was instantly put in mind of her dolefull Calamities; whereat much lamenting, she blushed, in that she had committed fo stupid an Absurdity: when looking about her, and not feeing Plivio there, ea fpying a blue Table, she leaned upon it, and charmingly fung these Lines.

The Glories of our Birth and State, are shadows, not substantial things, There is no Armour against Fate, Death lays his Icy hands on Kings;

Scepter

8 The Garden of Love, and

Scepters and Crowns
Must tumble down,
And in the Dust be equal laid,
With the poor crooked Scythe and Spade.

Some Men with Swords may reap the Field, and plant fresh Lawrels where they kill; But their strong Nerves at last must yield, they tame but one another still:

Early or late They stoop to Fate,

And must give up their murmuring Breath, When the pale Captive creeps to Death.

The Garland withers on your Brow,
then boast no more your mighty Deeds;
For upon Death's purple Altar now,
see where the Victor Victim bleeds:
All Heads must come,
To the cold Tomb;

Only the Actions of the just, Smell sweet and blossoms in their Dust.

Whilst the Princess Mersilva was viewing this sumptuous Garden, Prince Physio commanded a very gallant Banquet to be there prepared; the which most kindly in an Eglantine Bower he presented her; and to make her Entertainment pleasant, ordered

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ordered a Confort of Lutes, and three Eu. nuchs to warble forth a melodious Harrage ny. In this manner for a while they deluded the time; Prince Plivio all this while never fail'd to glance his Eye on the sweet Object of Mersilva's Beauty; which Cupid spying, immediately bent his Bow, and let fly an Arrow, headed with Defire, and feathered with Affection; which fo forcibly hit Plivio to the heart, that he immediately fainted at the stroke, so that now he acknowledg'd no Goddess but Cytherea, no Saint but Venus, nor no Lord but Love: so that his Breast being penetrated with the influence of Amorousness, after having re-conducted the Princess Mersilva to the Castle, he hasted to his own Apartment, and there poured forth these Contemplations.

What Plivio! art thou in a moment vanquish'd in the Field of Beauty! or hath Cupid such Influence at the first Approach to penetrate thy Breast with Affection? Can thy Resolutions which were devoted to Bellona, now stoop to Venus, and so make Garlands in her praise; whereas before thou disdainest her Society? Wilt thou not fondly bathe thy Senses in amorous Cogitations, and though to thy prejudice

The Garden of Love, and judge devote thy felf a Sacrifice to Love's Thus Attar? Beware Plivio! the Syrenes have onter weet Voices, yet are deceitfull, the Pan derfile thers fair Skins, yet infectious, and the at no Amazons beautifull Faces, yet meer Differ of femblers: though Helen was fair, she was not have petulant; Thais was Tovely, yet leud; I Ve and Semiramis, though curious, was a im, to Courtesan: But alas, Plivio! one Extions ample makes not a Maxim; nor doth lay in forepast Crimes include general Actions: ng R for speak without partiality, and thy yat Conscience will plead, that as there hath lva. been a wanton Helen, fo there was a wife Calliope; a leud Thais, so a chast Lucretia; a vicious Semiramis, yet a vertuous Sufanna; therefore Plivio, retire not with ut y Pufillanimity, but advance with Forti-or h tude; for as the Poet fings, A faint Heart seau never pluck'd Fruit from the Tree of Love. In t Confider with thy felf what Mersibua is; lies in the mirrour of Verity, by descent a mo Princess, of Qualities a Queen, of Beau-he ty an Angel, and of Perfection the only ler Phanix of her Sex. Who then but would eli efteem such a Virgin? Who then but In would love such a matchless Paragon? Nay, who but would facrifice his Life in ho ef the behalf of fo fweet a Saint?

have ontemplation, and folacing his Senses in Pan dersilva's Beauty, he remained so restless, the at no Object could please him, but the Diflea of the sair Mersilva; no thought conwas nt him, unless sprung from her Majestieud; il Vertue; nor no Imagination delight vas a im, unless derived from her rare Perfe-Ex. tions: fo as burning with Defire to difdoth lay his Pretence, he at last with a trembons: ng Resolution, wrote these Lines; which thy ya trusty Messenger, he sent to fair Merhath hva.

Plivio to Mersilva.

wife Madam, I have discovered so great a Passion in my Breast which none with ut your gracious self is able to appeale; ortion having fixed my Eyes upon so much leart leauty, I am bent to direct my Devotions over in the Altar of your flourishing Excellentis; ies; since I repose the first Fruits of my int a morous Inclinations, in contemplating on he Idea of your divine Persections, and lerive my chiefest Solace from your Anould the letter will be the Reward of my constant inclinations. on? Fidelity: but Madam, my Reprieve is but in hort; for if you now reject the faithfulest Heart that ever Love did yet inspire,

I shall receive it as your Commands, to decline adoring you, which since I can not whilst I live, I am resolved by Death to obey you, which I shall embrace with Joy, if it can produce any, in the sai Mersilva.

Till Death, your constant Plivio

Mersilva receiving the Letter, and guel sing from whom it came, without any did dain, opened it, and reading it with a blushing Countenance; because Love was the great Theme; having read it, the fetch'd a great Sigh, and instantly sound her Senses surrounded with manyagreeable Notions of Plivie's Perfections; every Line seeming to make a smooth path-way for Cupid's Entrance: but at last curbing her Paphian Sparks with a modest Countenance, and considering the Favour he had before shewn her, she resolved to return him this Answer.

Mersilvo to Plivio.

Received yours, without much difficulty, thinking only to hear of your welfare; but contrary to my expectation found it full of amorous Fancy; whereof repented me of my Immodesty, and blank

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I can m'd my hand for having intermeddled Death th so prejudicial an Affair: but weighwit the former Favours received from you, e fai hought it agreeable to return you anAner; the purport whereof is to request Plivio u to give a folemn Adieu to your comenc'd Enterprize; for the thought of gue fection cannot harbour in my Breast: y dil bear therefore the creating of your ith of any farther Trouble of writing to me that Dialect; for they are Motives which oleft my Imaginations; and cease your ellicitations to her, which till Death intends not to be won by any: not omitting every hanks for your former Favours, I remain, Your Friend Merfilva.

Having finished it, she was doubting or he hether she should fend it, fearing least it ore ight redound to the prejudice of her ame; but at last sounding the depth of r Affection, by the mutability of her incies, and the Foundation of her Love, diffi. the Allurement of her Liking; and your ding her felf to be inspired with the rion ames of Cytherea; she instantly resolved prosecute her purpose; by vertue of and hich Refolution, the forthwith delivered to a Messenger to convey it to Plivie:

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who using his diligence, in a short timeions, arrived at the Palace, where Prince Pliv was as then resident; and being brough were to his presence, he accomplish'd the Prin omer

cels Command,

The Prince not knowing from whene otter it came, very bufily opened it, and with curfe out further prolixity of Introduction, diver it rected his Eyes to the bottom, and four the claricum and four of the claricum and the cla the glorious name of Mersilva: Whethe divin his thoughts were then obscured by divin hame Inspiration, or his breast replenish'd wind down many ravishing Contemplations, I rese of the Censure thereof, to those which have Authorized the Censure of likewise enjoyed an Essence of the likes ime cred Tenuity: But one may credulouly wou Conjecture, that the fight of this Celestinate al Present did not only solace our despair The ing Plivio, but likewise infused a sudder Encouragement to his afflicted Malady embracing the Letter in his hand, he ver often kist the Oracle of Mersilva's name, and with many pearled Tears, seconded with affectionate Sighs, instantly paid thereo the faithfull welcome: but at last, calling his Thoughts to a retreat, and founding his Discretion, to refresh his Senses, he with Confideration read it diffinctly over and finding it not agreeable to his Inclinations,

time ions, he instantly raged and stormed, as Pliv f the demonstrations of his furiousness, rough were to be presented on Folly's Theatre; Pri ometimes he would stamp, and in a moment stare, as if his Brains had been behence otted with a Lunatick Frenzy; then hence otted with a Lunatick Frenzy; then with curse Cupid because he seduced him; and n, digital vet instantly yield many millions of thanks found of Venus, for investing him a Servant to so nether divine a Creature: When repeating the divine hame of Mersilva, he would quietly sit down and slumber, as though the Deity rese of that sacred Word, had some divine have Authority to charm his Senses; sometikes imes with detestable Reproaches, he loust would rebuke his Eyes for so unfortunately gazing upon Mersilva's Beauty. The Messenger was all this while a Spectrum of the sense of the se Spair The Messenger was all this while a Spender dator of Plivio's Passions; and mislady trasting it proceeded from the Princesses ver occasion, which wrought in him that perwith sons, departed, and informed the Prinered cels, in the highest degree, the manifesta-Illingtion of his Malady, and the melanding cholly Humour of his perplexed Calamis, he y.

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Which

Which the Princess Mersilva no sooner y in t understood, but being afresh inflamed vitho with his Affection, she very suddenly, in ppar her Princely Breaft, conceived a motion of Remorfe; being exceeding anxious, that fhe should occasion so much aggravation: when separating her self from Company, fhe betook her to her Closet, resolving to breath forth her Passions to her felt, where being no fooner entred, but the Princes Athelia knocking at the door, came to vifit her, and likewise for that night to be her Bedfellow; Mersilva smothered her Sorrows as well as she could, and putting on a chearfull Countenance, entertained her; so with a great deal of Familiarity and friendly Conference, they deluded the time, till Supper being ended, and the Skies o'er-veil'd with obscure night, they both betook themselves to their Bed; where both, but especially Mersilva, slept with watchfull Countenance; having their minds tracing upon their Favourite's Perfections. But splendant Aurora, the joyfull Messenger of Phebus, had no sooner in Combat conquer'd the vastal night, and fo given the fable Clouds a valorous Overthrow, but radiant Titan transpiercing his Darts through their Damask Curtains, ear-

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ner y in the morn, made Mersilva arise; who ned vithout any noise, leaving Athelia in Bed, in pparell'd her felf, directing her Course not the Fields; when circumferencing dithat ers pleasant Meadows, she at last arrived on: pa fragrant Mountain, where not only my nding that the Spring did p elent her with g to delicious Umbrage, but also that Phabus dere ad there exhaled the balmy drops from ices he Face of Flora, the most majestically vi lid her down on the verdant Grafs, hang a Bulh of Eglantine mixt with Cowo be ps in her hand, not only to repulse the her ays of ardent Olympus, but also to keep ting f the Gnats and Bees from her Rosie ined heeks; where pensively contemplating arity ith her felf, the breathed forth thefe aded ords. 1 the

'Ah Mersilva! how are thy Sences aught in the Snares of Affection! and now are thy delightfull Pleasures now dierted to amorous Passions! Can thy nind, which formerly could receive no mpression, become now tractable to

eceive any Stamp!

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Which Words she had no sooner uttered, casting her Eyes about, she espied, unpettedly, Prince Plivio; whereat exdingly blushing, the Blessing being se , ear-

'am come now to present you with the 'Original, and to inform you, Madan that my Paffion is of that extent, as non but that Beauty which created it, ca give it Limits: your facred Self is the Celetial Image to whom I bind at

confecrate my earthly Devotions; then fore, Madam, I beseech you decline note

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loud joy your Favours, that I may give Deared spair a Farewell, and so again cherish my afflicted Hope, with the Joy which your felf, felf shall ingender in my more than cheerex full Imaginations.

ablo Mersilva observing with what zealous asctive ection he declared himself, could instanct last y have condescended to his so reasonable rope Request; but thinking so soon to yield plea were but imprudency in her Sex, she at white ast return'd this Answer.

The Sir! the fairest Flowers do commonly

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abling harbour the foulest Wasps; and where to her the Stream seems most pleasant, it is often lede most dangerous; delicate Words are but Hear counterfeit Shadows for Deceit; and thol when the Sky feems clear it commonly eived prefages a Storm: Men in thele days red, and semble the Picture of Janus, which can ons; prescribe a Colour for every Physiognoth th my, and a Fancy for every Favour; ladan therefore as I will trust none, so I intend is non not to try any; lest reposing Confidence it, ca unadvisedly, I purchase Repentance too is th dear, and so Disc etion coming too late, ad an I crave pardon out of Season. Diana's then Maxims in my Thoughts are not fo foon evaporated, neither will I fo prejudice y to my self as to esteem Venus my Patrones; in the Mirrour of Experience I daily be.

hold the downfall of divers, in respect whereof, by others harms I mean to be

ware: Therefore Sir, if you please to relinquish your Suit, I may perchance

respect you as a Friend; or if the con-

trary, hate you as an Enemy.

Plivio perceiving his Saint to fight always under the Banner of Cruelty, and ful pecting his Fidelity, having his diffurbed Muse ingulph'd in the Ocean of Perplexity, did along time remain silent; but restlecting his Observations upon the Excellency of her Beauty, return'd this Replication.

Why fair Mersilva, one Swallow makes not a Summer, nor doth forepast Events conclude future Maxims: Affection comes by Destiny, not by Device, and is therefore natural, not artificial. It hard to censure of my Qualities, by there Qualifications, and very difficult to judge of my Affections by others Institutely; therefore Madam, to remove all Obstacles that may create your Difficult dence, I will seal what I have delivered with this Protestation, That my Passion for you, Madam, is sirm, not inconstant faithful, not seigned; and so grounded

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upon the Rock of immoveable, entire as mity, that as my days shall demonstrate my perpetual Affection, so my Death shall testifie my immortal Fidelity.

Mersilva hearing his solemn Protestations, immediately redned in such an amorous manner, that she could scarce refrain discovering her Affection; but at last with a compos'd Countenance, she return'd

him this Answer.

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'Sir, it is high time to put a Conclusion to our Conference, since the Theme whereon you descant proceeds from Folly; for if you imagine that my Thoughts will condescend to Love's Embracements you deceive your Hopes with a vain Absturdity; what I outwardly speak, proclaims my secret Intentions, therefore bury your Speeches in the Grave of silence, and presume not to present her with your Love, which esteems not any

way of your Affection.

Plivio being much perplex'd, was framing an Answer, but Mersilva perceiving by his Countenance what the product of his Discourse would be, very suddenly, without taking leave, departed; where leaving him to his Perplexities, and her to her Passions, we will for a while silence

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their

their Proceedings, and entertain our felves with Prince Medor's Adventures.

Prince Medor, as you have formerly heard, having acquired the Love of the Princess Florma, and grounded his Affe. ations in her Memory; was frustrated in the confummation of his Bliss by King A. genor, her Father, who utterly denyed to match his Daughter with him, in respect of an ancient Antipathy between Prince Medor's Father and himself. So that perceiving he could not obtain his defire, nor so much as confer with the Princess Florina, by reason the King her Father had commanded her to retire into the Country, he immediately refolv'd to travel, hoping that the Influence of Time would raze out the King's Indignation; he at. last determined to take a Voyage to the The of Madagascar, to pay his Duty and Service to his Uncle, Duke of Alphonio: but yet, if departing without leave of the Lady Florina should render him guilty of Ingratitude, he at last with Tears in his Eyes writ these Lines.

Medor, to the fair Princes Florina.

MAdam, Destiny resolving to metamorphose our Pleasures into pensive-

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nefs, hath doubtless instigated the King your Father to exercise his invective Malice against our Innocency; so that, dear Madam, I am forc'd to depart, and to leave behind me that transcendant Pledge of my Affection; live I cannot, but in torment; being deprived of the fight of fo much Beauty: but fuch, Madam, is my unfortunate Fortune, and the Gods in the Synods of their Resolutions have imposed it as a period to commence my Miferies; nay more than fo, I think ratified it for a Plague to impale me within the circumference of endless Disconsolation. But Madam, in what defolate place foever I erect my Residence, my Contemplations shall dwell upon the Idea of your Beauty, and my mind ruminate upon your divine Perfections; and daily upon the Altar of Love I will facrifice Sighs, in testimonial of my immoveable Affections: therefore Dear Madam, be not difmay'd for the Gods who have made this Decree. may in time revoke their Sentence; fo committing you to the protection of the Powers Divine, Madam, your constant Servant till Death. Meder .

Which having ended, he delivered it to

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an intimate Friend to convey to her; and fo finding a Ship ready, he imbarqued himfelf for Madagascar; sometime he was floating upon the proud Billows, and past by feveral Ports and Islands, and at last betwixt a Bay and an Island was overtaken by a cruel tempestuous Storm, which continued a long time, and forc'd them into a Port in Africa; where gaining the Shore, and finding himself weak, through his Marine Sickness; he instantly resolved there to make his Abode; and so taking leave of the Master, and bestowing his Liberality upon the Ship's Company, he there betook himself to erect his residence: till at last being advertiz'd by a Merchant, that the Court of Zanfara was the Rendevouze of the Flower of Chivalry, he determin'd thither to travel: in which Journey, some few Leagues from the Court, by chance straying in a Forrest, and arriving to a solitary Cottage, whose situation corresponded with his disturbed Passions, he resolved there to make his Habitation; the better to passawaythe dolefull time, whilft absent from his fair Floring, and the better to cloud his Secrets from the fight of neighbouring Spectators, he disguised himself in A Hermit's Habit, seeming outwardly to

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all Paffengers, the chief Inhabitant of that vastal Grove; where forgetting his former Dignity, and folacing himfelf with the remembrance of his fair Florina, he a long time lived as a Man which had forfaken the alluring Jollities of this inconstant World, devoted his Soul to the only enjoying of Celestial Felicities. But Love, which still inspired him with the Beauty of his Princels, would not fo abandon this her amorous Favourite, but so tyranously furnish'd his mind with ardent Flames of Affection, that thinking to fleep, Cupid would permit Morpheus no Entertainment; but forced him divers times to arife, and pourtraict forth his Passions in affirmation. of his Fidelity; and at last eccho'd forth these Verses.

Break, break distracted heart, there is no cure
For this thy Soul's most desperate Calenture;
Sighs which in others Passions went,
And give them ease when they lament,
Are but the Billows to my hot Desire,
And tears in me den't quench, but nonrish Fire:
Nothing can mollisse my Grief,

Or give my Passion some Relief.

Love's Flames when smother dialways do devour

And when opposed by the same fatal Power,

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Then welcome Death, let thy blest hands apply A Medicine to my Grief, and then I'll dye.

It were too tedious to relate all the paffages of the auftere Life which Prince Me. dar lead in this folitary Grove, therefore let this fuffice: That being vanquished with ardent Affection, he finally vowed to devote the Pilgrimage of his clays to Florina's Service, and protested to adore her as the facred Deity to whom he dedi cated the generality of his Terrestrial Devotions. Therefore leaving him to his Disconsolateness to be relieved by patience, we will return to Prince Thalmo, and his Princess the fair Athelia.

Prince Thalmo perceiving the fair Athelia to be always devoted to Cruelty, and concluding with himself, that she triumphed over his Martyrdom, being overcome with Love and loaded with Affection, could reap no rest of his Senses, until he had a Prospect of her singular Beauty; she being in the next Arbour, he addressed himfelf to her, after a finall Complement, and faid.

Madam, the Nature of Planets is to have each his Influence, and it being my Fortune to be Planet-struck with that ex-

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celling Beauty which you posses, I am now come to the Divine Oracle to learn whether I shall be happy or miserable.

Athelia surprized to see Thalmo present; yet shadowing her Affection under the protection of Nicety, with a little redness said: 'Thalmo, if Planets have power to reform Civility, then I hope your old Folly is metamorphosed to new Discreceion: For my part I am what I professed, and if you approve of it, as you came unlooked for, so when you please you may depart.

'Why, Madam! replyed Thalmo, fo harsh a Sentence? should I which have been faithfull to you, even from the Birth of your first Aspect, become now to your Deity inconstant; or would you advise me to transform my forepast Affection into suture Harred? Thy Harred, said Athelia, doth more please me than thy Affection, and yet I care little for both, and for thy self less. Thalmo being ready to answer her, but was prevented by Levina her Gentlewoman, who came on purpose to attend her; the which as soon as he espied, with a very low how and a forrowfull Resolution he departed raging against Capid for predestinating

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him to serve so cruel a tyrannizing Beauty: when walking apart in a private place, he espied his tair Athelia to direct her course to the Court Upon which he re-entred the Arbour, where she was, and looking round him, he observed the Turtles in their Amours; upon which seating himself he breathed out these Verses.

Observe those Turtles kind and true,
Hearken how frequently they wooe;
They faithfull Lovers are, and true,
If they that see em would but be so too.
Of them my fair Athelia learn,
At length to grant me my Concern;
Follow what thou in them dost see,
And thou wilt soon be kind to me.

Having thus vented himself, and seeing his sair Atbelia absent, he at last thinking to find her in her Closet; where very pensively entring, and not seeing her there, immediately directed his way to the Court; where he was no sooner arrived, but a Page meets him, and delivers him this Message and Challenge. Sir, Prince Albion my Master, hearing of the Assertation you bear to the Princess Atbelia, whose Beauty those that pretend to it.

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must dispute it in the Field of Honour. and to that end hath fent thee this refo-'lute Defiance, which I here deliver to thee: Which Thalmo opening, it confain'd these Words.

Almion to Thalmo.

Roudest Arabian! being acquainted with thy aspiring Affections towards the Lady Athelia, whom the World 'knows none can lay claim to fo high a Favour but my felf; and by reason my Courage disdains to digeft to unpleafing 'a Disgrace, I have sent you this Defiance, to meet me fingle in the Castle Trench 'after Dinner, there to dispute it with thy Sword; where I will feverly chaftife thy 'Insolence in croffing my Affections, and ' make thee fensible, that in all things thou ' haft abused thy Superiour,

Almion.

Thalmo wondering at this unexpected News, and disdained to be out-brav'd by a Zanfarian Prince, by his own Page return'd this.

The Answer. Nderstanding by your Defiance ' that for my Duty 1 pay to the La dy Athelia, you have affum'd that Title

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of being my School-master, to correct me for that which your self cannot avoid; my Nature is such, that I desire to live no longer, then to be deprived of the Beauty of the fair Arbelia: at the Time and Place appointed my Sword shall demonstrate that my Affection is such to Arbelia, that whilst here, I will live and dye in her Service; and neither thy Valour, nor fear of Death shall raze her I dea out of my Memory.

The hour being come, Thalmo according to his promise, fail'd not to present himfelf; where, instead of meeting his Rival Albion, he was treacheroutly encountered by a Crew of desperate Russians, which were there by Albion plac'd in an Ambufcado to Murther him; who feeing they so fiercely approached him, instantly began to put himself in a posture of Defence to receive their Fury; where with a mag. nanimous Courage he dealt fuch gallant Blows among them, that at first, not able to endure his Valour, they were forc'd to retreat: but after re-affuming their strength they very couragiously flew upon him, where they so manfully behaved themfelves, that Toulmo not able to withstand

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their Force, was glad to retire, and take the Castle Wall for his Defence; where he fo valiantly behaved himfelf, that for recompence of their Treachery, he made many of them bear the weight, and undergo the sharpness of his Cicilian Sword: but in short, their Force bearing Sway, and their Number Masterdom, he unfortunately received many dangerous Wounds, from whence iffued out abundance of Bloud, that finding his Body weak, and feeling his Senfes fail him, thinking there was no way but Death, falling to the ground, and gasping as he thought his last, he in Memory of his dear Arbelia breath'd out these words: Let my blond testifie bow well I loved Athelia, and remaind constant even to the last. boog to ed on

Words, but Prince Plevio being flumbering behind a Bank next adjoining, hearing the Name of Thalmo repeated, immediately flarted up, and feeing the Prince his Confin to be in danger amongst these Russians, instantly stept in to his Assistance; where making way with his Sword, he listed him on his feet, and so desiring him to be of good Courage; slew to his Adversaries, where he distributed such valorous strokes amongst

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amongst them, that in short some fied, and the rest being vanquished, he triumphant. ly remained Conqueror: which was no fooner finished, but using his best Art and Industry, bound up his Coufin's Wounds, and conveyed him to a skilfull Chyrurgion there next adjoining, commanding him to dress him with all care imaginable; whereupon taking Horse, he speedily posted to the Court, and informed the Princess A. thelia of the forrowfull News; which when the heard, immediately fell in a Trance. Plivio beholding this unexpected Accident, and wanting an Expedient, fummon'd his Senses in their proper Order, and employ'd his utmost Diligence for the Ladies recovery; which he very foon effected, begging her to be of good comfort, for that there was no doubt to be made of Thalmo's Health. The Princess being therewith a little qualified, for a while appeard her felf; yet continued weeping for his Mifery, being fensible it was her Affection which induced him to fo hazardous an Enterprize: but thinking how to demean her felf in fo tragical an Event, at last shedding many Tears, she resolved by his Friend Plivio to fend a few Lines, as a manifestarion of her Affection, and as an unquent Pre-

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Preservative to his Wounds; so calling for Pen and Paper, she wrote to this effect.

Athelia to Thalmo.

THalmo, the heavy News of thy Misfortune has implored my Affection to put Pen to Paper; and hath so overwhelm'd my Senses with Grief, that there is almost no words herein contained, but 'hath been washed with a Tear, nor no 'Syllable but hath been faluted with a Sigh: 'Yet fince it is none but Athelia is the Original of thy Misfortune, I will to the utmost of my power recompence thy Affections; fo recommending my Sorrows to your favourable Cenfure, I unfeignedly am Yours as her own

Athelia.

Thalmo receiving the Letter from Prince Plivio, found now by Experience that the Distemper of the mind far exceeds that of the Body; for it wrought such Miracles upon his Cure, that in few days he was perfectly recovered; and contemplating upon that favourable Epistle which his dear Athelia had fent him, and not to be guilty of so high an Ingratitude in not returning an Answer, he enforcing himlelf to fit up, writ her thefe Lines.

Thalmo

Thalmo to the fair Athelia.

'M Adam, the Honour you were plead bound the Picker of Servant, has wrought such Wonders upon my Distemper, that no other Physic and k cian but your felf could have effected fuch cing a Cure; the vertue thereof being fo well that I applied, that the powerful Charm had its full operation: Therefore, Madam, on the Idea of your Divine Perfections

will I for ever fix my Memory, and exercise my Contemplations upon your matchless Beauty; never forgetting my

kind Preferver, but will continually offer up Millions of Thanks for the Receipt

of fo great a Bleffing, and unfeignedly remain, Yours now and ever;

Thalmo.

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The Princess Athelia receiving the Letter, was much pleas'd with the News of Thalmo's Recovery, yet could not be fatisfled with that Copy of the Letter without feeing the Original Hand that writ it; fo that at last finding an Opportunity, when the King and Queen her Parents were ab-Sent, taking Levina with her, she instantly went to the Lodge, where she was advertifed Thalmo was refident; being conducted to his Chamber, the beheld Thalmo very pen,

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bensively walking alone, having his Arm bound up in a Scarf; he no fooner espied rthy the Princess Athelia, but was transported up-beyond Measure, and forthwith embraced lysi- and kist her hands; their Eyes like piersuch scing Aspects attracted each others fight, well that like Ambassadors of Love they seem'd had to ratifie a mutual Alliance: their Tongues were filent for a while, till at last an amorous Blush had given leave to so pleafing an Encounter, Atbelia uttered these words.

'Thalmo, you may wonder at my unexpected Arrival, and yet you may imagine the News of your Misfortune lead me hither, and not to keep you any longer in suspence, I am now come in some measure to retaliate your Affection, tho? indeed before I thought it not convenient to take it so soon in consideration but fince the Gods have so decreed it, there is no refifting the Divine Powers; therefore you may place your Happinels where your kind Stars directs you.

Thalmo hearing this Celeftial Lecture, perceived by the fervency of her Words that the attered no more than Love did induce her; very fostly taking of her by her howy hand, return'd her this obliging Anwer.

Garden of Love, and

Madam, your Words have fo much Love Divinity in themselves, that they carry proce power with 'em, to whom they are dire in Fr cted; and are a high Cordial to afflicted take 'Spirits; the Operation hath caused my fteac Breast to triumph o'er my Sickness, VOW which heretofore I believed would not Hea only have conquered my mind, but also Lor cut off the Thread of my Life; there fore welcome, dear Madam, to your fortu forrowfull Thalmo, and Millions of in co Thanks to kind Fortune, for investing retur mine Eyes with fo heavenly an Object! but whether wander my Senles, that I forget my felf fo much, as not to gratifie your Love with reciprocal Affection? but pardon me, dear Madam, and attribute the Defects of my Reason to the Distemper of my Weakness; for I refolve that both now and ever to honour and adore you as the eternal Goddels of my Prosperity; and esteem you as the facred Image of my Felicity. To which Atbelia answered, Thalmo, where there is no Offence com-

mitted, by consequence the Excuse ceafeth: thy Actions having cleared from

Imputation; be not timorous, for thy Pardon is fealed; therefore advance in

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Love, and I will profecute in Affection; proceed in Amity, and I will correspond in Friendship: for Approbation of which take here my Heart and Hand as the steadfast Seal of immortal Constancy; vowing before the Imperial Throne of Heaven, to establish only Thalmo for my Lord and Husband.

Thalmo effeeming himself exceeding fortunate with this Angelical Reply, and in congratulation of her protested Amity,

return'd her this Answer.

'Madam, Your fincere Affection creates in me such Raptures, and has so great an Instruction over all my Sences, that in retaliation, I vow not only to dedicate my zealous Devotions to so beautiful a Shrine, but also resolve to remain for ever your

'Loyal Servant.

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With many amorous Ceremonies they firmly contracted themselves; and in such an affectionate manner, that neither the Frowns of Fortune, the Treachery of Time, or the Flattery of Instruation, could either blast their flourishing Friendship, or once daunt their immoveable Fidelity: so that having brought this happy Couple to a facred Union, we will for a while leave them; and discourse of the strange

strange Accidents which besel the Lady Florina.

Florina living very forrowfull in her defo. late Castle, was at last by King Agenor her Father, commanded to Court, without a foon

ny Delay; whereat being exceedingly difcontented, in respect it would hinder her

Devotions due to Prince Meder; and being a faithfull Admirer of his Perfections, ut-

terly refus'd thereunto to condescend. The King being inform'd of her Obstinacy, immediatelysent forth Messengers to force

her to the Court : but she being before ac-

quainted with it, confulted with her felf how to avoid her Father's Indignation.

At last knowing of no other means for her Escape, then to shelter her felf under some

Pealant's Cottage, fo laying afide her Princely Extraction and Grandeur, the

pursued her intended purpose; so that

reaping an exceeding Delight, to see the homely Shepherds lead their Milk-white

Plocks to the fragrant Fields, and to hear divers Quires of harmonious Birds chant-

ing forth their pleasant Notes; she remai-

ned there a long time as well contented, as a Lady in her Estate could contain herself,

which was opproft in Love: till on a day bearing a Shepherdais company to the

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ields, directly in the close of the Eveing, when the golden Sun was declining nd leaving the Horizon to give Light to her ar Antipodes, and the pale faced filver tal soon gave notice to Pilgrims of their dif. epose; as these our two Females were turning from solding their Flocks, Floing na hiding her felf under the Canopy of ut. sprouting Fig-Tree, sung with an ex-

Hence Cupid with your cheating Toys, Your real Griefs and painted Joys, Tour Pleasures which it self destroys. Love, like Men in Fevers burn and rave, And only what ensures them do's deceive: Man's weakness makes Love fo fevere, They give them power by their fear, And make the Shackles which they wear. Who to another do's his Heart submit. Makes his own Idel, and do's worthing it.

Him whose Heart is all his own, Peace and Liberty do's Crown, He apprehends no killing frown

Reels no Ruptures which are Joys difeas d, And is not much transported, but still pleas'd.

the Shepherdess seeing Florina had now led, entreated her to repair home; they

had not long tript over the diaper'd Fields were but they beheld a very young Stripling fear which haftily drew towards them, who at be being almost out of breath with running on, to the Lady Florino brought this Message mm 'Madam, I am on purpose sent to be the Syou instantly, to hide your selves in some the secret Grove; for there are arriv'd to out whe

Cottage, four or five, which come i Coc

fearch for you, and have very muc give wounded my Father for concealing you him

Therefore make no delay, Madam, port

you value your own prefervation; and ther-

fince the Laws of Nature and Humanit there obliges me to aid all Ladies in Affliction which

'I will if you please, Conduct you wi Mass fastery through the Woods and Vineyand to se

where I doubt not but you may remi to fe

with most assured privacy

Florino wondering at her Father's Credill no elty, yet pleas'd at the Shepherds Civilia But I pondering with her self which way wander in this Exigency; at last sollow Fisher ing the Youth's Advice, she desired to Team Shepherdess to bear her Company, so her recting their Course to the Sea-side, whit to co in two days they attained, without be old n elpyed of any: But they were no foot fligat arrived to a harbouring Town, but the fonal ng

ld were inform'd, that there was likewise ing fearch made for her apprehension; wherewho at being almost overwhelmed with Passion, and vanquish'd with Affection, they age immediately left the Town, and cros'd be the Strand: Tracing upon the borders of om the Sea, they arrived to a little Creek, on where espying an aged Fisher-man in his e i Cock-boat, repairing his Nets, having nuc given him the time of the day, asked you him, if he would for Recreation, transm, port them a League on the Sea: The Fithereunto agreed; so with a merry Gale, they with thereunto agreed; so with a merry Gale, therewith the bending with Mast, they put to Sea, where delighting yard to see the old mantake store of Fish, and to see the Boat dance on the azured Seas. In this manner they pass'd away the time, s Co till night gave them a Summons to return: ivilia But before Florina reach'd the Shore, she way demonstrated her Estate to the ancient follo Fisher-man, and likewise begg'd him with red Tears in her Eyes, to affiff her in this , fo her miserable Distress, and for her fasery. , which to convey her every day on the Sea. The nt be old man pitying her Estate, and being infligated byher Liberality, foon to her fo reaout a sonable a Request, voluntarily condescen-

ded: Which course they many days ob ferved, with as much joy to Florina, a if she had now been Triumphing in he former Dignity; till at last Fortune resol ving to add more Mifery to her Affliction caused her unexpectedly, to fall within the Labyrinth of a greater Misfortune; for they so long time daily went to Sea, til at length, being two Leagues from the Shore, they were espyed by a Pinnace which ranged close along by the Clifts to attrap some Purchase, who hoisting their Sails, came directly towards them; and to making speedy way, did very foon of their Boat from the Shore, commanding them to the Main; which dolefull Sea tence, alarm'd our weak Company, made them almost dye with Grief, to to think on their difastrous Calamity; bu especially the Lady Florina, from whole Eyes distill'd many pearled Tears, which as the perfect Messengers of Sorrow, di apparently demonstrate her insupportable Grief; but all, alas! in vain, for then was no remedy to affift her, nor no un daunted Alcides near hand to refcue he from their Cruelty; but they were ver rigorously commanded to come aboard which with a faint Courage, and forrow

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full Resolution, they essected; Florina being the last that entered, whom the Turkish Slaves no sooner beheld, but casting their Eyes upon her Angelical Beauty, clapped their Hands, and throwed up their Caps; being glad they had got so glorious a Prize, to present their Sultan. The Comfortless Florina hanging down her head with Despair, thought she was now on the Stage, where the Catastrophy of her Tragedy should be acted.

But the Captain of this curfed Crew discreetly beholding her Beauty, did from the influence of her constant Eyes, and modest Aspect, conceive she was a vertuous Person, and of great Extraction; in respect whereof he discharged the rest, and retain'd only perplex'd Florina, which he commanded to be entertained with all respect and favour imaginable; and the better to effect it, he forlook his Cabin, and lodg'd her in it, charging his Page to attend her with as great diligence, as on his own Person fo that Floring might perceive, that as they entertained her with that Civility, so they likewise honoured her, by never attempting to violate her Chaftity, which she a thousand times efreemed

steemed more dearer than her Life: But again remembring Prince Medor, the would weep, as it his abfent Idea, had a regal Prerogative to create her Tears many bitter Sighs she likewise Ecchoed forth, and blam'd the unfortunate Fates for investing her with this disaftrous Accident. In her Contemplation, she rumina. ted upon his Perfections; but again pondering upon his Absence, and her own prefent Milery, she would forthwith burlt into publick Exclamations, curfing the in. humane Destinies for investing her Breat with fuch an Aggravation. Which the Captain perceiving, began most affectionately to comfort her despairing Courage; adding moreover, with the industrious Art of his fluent Rhetorick, that no improbious or malevolent Proceedings should be exercised against her, but such respect should be paid her as was equivolent to her Vertue. But alas, Florina not minding his Words, could reap no benefit by the Anagram of his Speeches; but still most bitterly bewail'd her Misfortune, lying prostrate in her Cell of Misery: where leaving her with the Captain of the Pinace, which resolved to transport her for Constansinople, we will commit her to the favoura-

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ble Occurrence of Fortune, and return to Plivio and Mersilva.

Prince Plivio being informed of his Cousin's proceedings, and of the fortunate Success he had received in his Amours, began to conceive fome Motions of Hope, by the means of the Lady Atbelia, to obtain his defired Mersilva: Upon which Foundation he accourred himself in white. Sattin, cut upon white Damask, and went to the Court; but being inform'd she was with the Queen, the Lady Athelia, and other Ladies, hunting in the Forrest, he immediately mounted his Courfer, and with a fwift pace posted thither; where no fooner arrived, but hearing the shrill Cry of the Hounds, and the loud founding of the Horns, thinking the Huntimen were on the Foot of the Game, being a defirous Spectator, but more zealous to behold the Beauty of the fair Mersilva, with an earnest Resolution made his Jennet advance; where traverfing the Thickets, we will for a while leave them, and discourse of the Adventures which happened to the Lady Mersilva.

In the midst of the Game it so chanced, that the Deer which they chased, escap'd from their sight; and the Troops of Knights

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and Ladies dispers'd themselves to attrap him; amongst the rest, there was a young Cavalier named Blithion, which a long time had burned with Affection for the Princess Mersilva, and could never reap any fit opportunity to disclose himself, tho' by all means fought to sequester her from the Company. At last Fortune determining with her Beauty to administer a treacherous Accident, did by her Influence cause the harmless Princess to strayfrom the fight of her Affociates; where ranging discontentedly, as if her Courage had been already vanquished by Despair, was at last most unfortunately met by this Blithion, who being exceedingly transported with this News, giving Spurs to his Horse, and Speed to his Courage, in a short space overtook her, where with these indecent Words, he impudently faluted her.

'Madam! I have a long time endured many Millions of Perplexities, which your Divine Beauty hath created; and I hope fince Destiny is for favourable as to present my Eyes with so sweet an Object, that you will be pleafed to grant my

Affection the fruition of my ardent Defires; and let my Breaft enjoy those Hea-

venly Pleasures of your amorous Embraccs.

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cas, without which, you will fully Accomplish my untimely Martyrdom.

Merfilva smiling at his fond Speeches, out being moved at his immodeffy, dying her Cheeks with a Vermillion Blush, very

harply return'd him this Answer.

Sir! if your vicious self had been ever train'd up in the School of Vertue, you 'would have 'tempered your Words with 'Discretion, and not so lavishly presumed to offend a chaft Ladies Ears with fuch 'Obscenity: but since your sottish Tongue hath uttered that which cannot be recalled, know, impudent Villain, that I abhor thy Suit, as the utter prejudice of my unspotted Honour, and detest thy felf, as the inhumane Actor of my immortal Degradation: therefore with speed depart, and instantly bid adieu to your abrupt Folly; otherwise I will acquaint the King of thy lascivious Enterprize. and instigate him to reward thy Offence. with the deserved punishment of thy demerits.

Blithion, nothing difmayed at this Anfwer, but rather encreased the Flames of his lascivious Desire; instantly prosecuted his Suit in this manner.

Madam, fland not fo much on you ' Pun

pe Garden of Love, and

Punctilio's of Disdain; but rather consider with your felf where you now are;

for at present you are destitute from the Court, and of Assistance; so that your

' Honour and Life is at my disposal; and to inform you of my Resolution, I will

onot be denyed with Refusals, nor deluded

by Delays; for in spight of Fortune,

· I must fatisfie my Love, and reap the enjoyment of my long defired expecta-

tion: therefore, Madam, pray readily

' consent, and furnish your Tongue no more with your elegant Expressions of

Coyness; otherwise you will enforce me

'after Enjoyment, to use you with such

Barbarity, as my Nature would scarce proffer to your lovely Sex, much less to

you, Madam, whom I did ever adore:

Come, Madam, I believe you want as much Courting as some Widows doe;

which I'll inform you of their Expecta-

c tion.

Sings. He that would win a Widows Heart, must bear up briskly to ber; She loves the Lad that's free and but hates the formal Wooer . (fmart,

Mersilva greatly astonish'd at him, began exceedingly to weep, and fighing as if her Breaft

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Breast would rend in sunder with insupportable Grief, continually invoking the Divine Powers to revenge her Quarrel, and to shelter her from the Rapine of this immodest Knight: at last considering that Silence was a Demonstration of Consent, disdaining ever to stain her Honour, she summoned her angry Muses, and very resolutely with an undauntedness return'd him this Answer.

'Inhumane Knight! fince Reason will "not allay your Cruelty, in permitting me to depart without blemishing my Honour, be affured, that rather than I will once "confent to thy lascivious Demand, I will 'voluntarily be the Instrument of my un-'timely Martyrdome. Thereupon unsheathing a Poniard which she wore, as a fecond Lucretia, she resolved to destroy her felf: but the devilish Knight espying. wresting it from her hand, prevented her; and catching hold of the Bridle, difmounted her; whereat being overcome with fear, in a Trance fell to the Ground, where metamorphofing her Cherry colour to a pale Complexion, she there lay speechless, but coming again to her felf Blithion proceeded.

Madam, 'tis in vain to refist, where

there is none to rescue you, yet were Hereules himself present, he should not hinder me of my purpose; for my

fenfual Ardour cannot be extinguished without accumulating the Roses of your

Divine Virginity. Which having ended, Mersilva falling on her Knees, with Tears trickling down her Cheeks, befeeching

him in these Words.

'Sir! pity the Estate of an innocent Damsel, and rather sheath your Rapier in my Breast, than bereave me of what I esteem more precious than my Life; erect not I beseech you, your Tro-

phies of Pleasure in the violation of my Honour, or depriving the inward Trea-

fure of my unspotted Chastity. But the doleful Confluence of her Tears imbath'd her startering Tongue in silence, that her exteriour Fortitude permitting her not to decypher her inward Grief, she lay for a while senceless, as if her Thoughts had been smother'd up in Disconsolateness; when arousing her sorrowful Mind with the Contemplation of approaching Danger, she suddenly started up, and most in-

humanely tere the Tresses of her golden Hair, wherewith Nature had gloriously imbellished her; which Tragical Object might

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might have moved the most blood Seythian to pity; nay have caused the sence. less obdurate Rocks themselves to weep, and have taken compassion upon her de-

plorable Condition.

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But Blithion not moved with Remorfe, but rather burning with inordinate Defire, to extenuate the Fire of his unfatiable Luft, esteemed every minute a Month, before he had perfected his Diabolical Enterprize: fo that accepting of no Reason, nor imploration, taking her by the trembling hand, he most viciously began to embrace her; when being ready to make Shipwrock of her Honour behold, Plivio came galloping very furiously; which Merfilva to her comfort espying, loudly cry'd out, 'Ah Plivio! as you tender my 'Affection, and value my Honour, affift 'your distressed Mersilva, and revenge the devilish Pretence of this inhumane Monster with the Reward of his mi Punishment.

Plivio perceiving it to be his dear Merfilva, being enflamed with Revenge, instantly leaping from his Horse, with his Sword drawn, approaching his Enemy. very furiously uttered these Words: Slave and Villain, make ready thy Sword, for

thou immediately dyest: which words he no sooner pronounced, but in a moment he lodg'd his Sword in the Offender's Breast; where receiving his Reward, and falling gasping to the Ground, *Plivio* sirst cut off his lascivious Tongue, and then sent his Soul to the Consines of *Pluto*, to tell *Tereus* and *Tarquin*, he was one of their

wicked Disciples.

Which Merfilva with joy perceiving, ran to Plivio, falling first to his feet, and then again arising, embraced and kist him; when after having given him many hearty. Thanks, feconded by showers of Tears, the related to him the whole Proceedings; the which when Plivio understood, he efleemed himself extraordinary happy, that the Fates appointed him to arrive in fo fortunate an hour; and so having comfortted his now even comfortless Mersilva, remounting her on her milk-white Courfer, posting together, they resolved to find out the Queen; to whose Presence being arrived, fitting with her Ladies under the pleasant Shades of Fig Trees, whose spacious Leaves kept them from the power of the Suns Influence; to them he gave a Relation of this Adventure, which Mersilva verified, by a fresh shower of pearled

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Tears, which like Dew on Damask Rofes, distill'd on her forrowfull Cheeks. Which when the Queen, together with her Daughter the Princess Athelia, and the rest of the Ladies understood, they prais'd the Divine Powers, and gave likewife incessant thanks to Plivio, for his undaunted magnanimity, and exceedingly congratulated the Princess Mersilva's prefervation: They left the Forrest, and returned to the Court, where they were no fooner arrived, but the Queen immediateby made the King therewith acquainted; who highly Commended Prince Plivie, for his Valour; and in consideration thereof honourably advanc'd him; which adding more hope to Plivio's defired Enterprize, made him not a little rejoyce at the accidental Event of fuch great Fortune; for perceiving himself much in the King and Queen's Favour, and likewife in the Princess Athelia's, in respect of her be't beloved Thalmo; and then beholding his adored Merfilva reap such fatisfaction in enjoying his presence whereupon remaining continually in the Court, he at last found Mersilva, in her Closet, to whom he amorously address himself. 6 Madam

The Garden of Love, and

Madam, all alone? a Kifs of your fair Hand for your best Thoughts. Not alone Sir, Says she, for my Thoughts are

my best Companions; yet my Contemplations are fo frivolous, that less than

what you nominate may purchase them.

The Prince being transported to see her in fo facetious a Humour, refolved to profecute his Amours, continued: fair Mersilva, less than a kiss from your fair Hand, or a smile from those Lips, is 'in Effect nothing; and Ladies will scarce thank their Lovers with fo slender an Affection Indeed Sir, Says she, I'll prove that to the contrary, for they are many times fo Effectual, that it raises their Lovers to fo great a height of Ambition, that many times they take too much Privilege.

I, but Madam, reply'd Plivio, these are Shadows without Substance; there is some difference between Pretence, and Performance; for the one is the others contrary: so taking up her Hand, he advanc'd it to his Lips, and kift it; whereupon with a sharp Rebuke, she.

remin'd him this Answer.

Sir, I little thought your proceedings would have been to peremptory; for

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had I but once judg'd, your Actions would have been of so large an Extent, my Absence should have given you an utter Denyal.

The Prince seeing her Patience a little moved, thought to ballance his Offence with an humble Answer; and in that man-

ner addressed himself.

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'Madam, your Anger carries such a 'power, that whereever it steers its Course, 'it sits Triumphant: Had I thought my 'Innocent Actions, would have so soon 'incurr'd your Displeasure, I would have 'prevented, by my Care, what has now 'happen'd.

Whereunto the Princess Mersilva, replyed, 'I see now,' tis my favour, which is the occasion of this disorder, therefore to avoid the like for the future, you may, as you came depart, and return when

you are fent for.

'Madam, reply'd the Prince, if the Demonstrations of my Passion has created in you this displeasure, I beseech you impute it to my Affection, which was the chief occasion; and as a reward of my Crime, instict on me what punish ment you think shall be Equivolent to the Offence.

The Princess Merfilva hereat blush'd, but in such affectionate manner, as if both Love and Disdain sate on her Cheeks, striving for Supremacy; yet at last considering she had advanc'd her words fo far, and feeing the Subject fo small, whereon the had grounded her Anger, instantly departed, leaving poor Plivio opprest with Love; fometimes he would walk about her Chamber, crying out, Ye Gods, must I never be acquainted with your Power? but only through those miseries you cast upon me by it? alas! why do you furnish me with so much Frailty, and yet provoke me to Despair? Then. he would Slumber, and in his Droufiness. Dream of Mersilva's Cruelty; and in revenge thereof tear his Hair; in which posture he so long remained, till at last Merfilva returned; who aftonish'd to see. him there present, forgetting her former Anger, ask'd him pleasantly, What Wind blew him thither? Whereupon striving to abolish his Grief, fetching a Sigh, he mildly return'd her this Answer.

'Madam, It is your alone Cruelty, which hath created my Sorrows, and if you did not Triumph o'er my Misery, you would with Justice pity my Malady; therefore, Madam, I beseech you

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be not prolix in those Favours you are pleased to confer on me, but rather let me know my Destiny, whether I shall live your Admirer, or dye your Martyr.

The Princess observing with what servent Zeal he pleaded, did instantly, as being inspired with Affection, return him

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Prince Plivio, your Valour and Ver-'tue, having combin'd their charming 'force in the band of Unity, hath long 'fince in my Breast made way for your Af-'fection, in fuch a manner, that being con-'quer'd by the Aspect of your Magnanimity, I in all Honour remain yours; and though I have hitherto refrained dif-'covering of my Affections, yet impute it not to the defect of my benevolence, but rather to the Zeal which I had to 'make proof of your Constancy: But 'now I call the Gods to witness, that from 'my Heart I adore none but Plivie, 'which is the bright Morning-Star of my Felicity.

The Prince in Congratulation of this Happiness, very familiarly return'd her

this Reply.

Most Divine Mersilva! if my Tongue

'ing Substance. Mersilva hearing his friendly Answer, and Comforted her Senses with the affurance of his Affection, mildly return'd him this kind Answer.

tering Shadows, or extinguish by frown-

Dear Plivio, being heretofore a Priloner, I am by your kind Aid and Affiftance fer at Liberty; yet when I remember the Estate of King Samer my Father, I cannot forbear weeping, in that I should so unadvisedly bereave him of o fecti tues

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him of a Daughter; but yet the Unity of our Love hath link'd me to your Affection, and in ruminating on your Vertues, I infuse his Memory in the twist of Oblivion: So that Condemn me not of Disobedience, in being Obedient to your felf, nor impute not the Title of inhumane Ignorance to my Charge, in respect it is your Vertues which Unites me to your Affections. And with that, showers of Tears trickled down her Cheeks; which the Prince perceiving, endeavouring to Comfort her, faid to her. Weep not, fair Mersilva, but let now the radient Aspect of our fixed Amours, abandon the residence of Sorrow; let the Memory of our tender Affections, drown the Waves of Discontent; and let the Novelty of our Friendstip, triumph over infinuating Disconsolation. The Gods feem to Sympathize our Amity, and Fortune her felf, delights to Crown our Friendship: Fair Mersilva! Despair is the Path-way to Destruction; therefore cheer up your Spirits, and let a pleafant Countenance give Sorrow the Overthrow; and think not that my Famifliarity shall prejudice your Estate, or diminish your Grandeur, for then were my

The Garden of Love, and 140 Sollicitations feigned, and my Affectirepai ons folly; but the purity of my pretence, mear and the event of Time, shall inform you quilit to the contrary; for Plivio will live and tunat dye, only to adore sweet Mersitva. Wherenpon Merfilva reply'd, Having Affe an affured Hope, that you will perform no less than you promise, I in consipale C deration vow to be wholly yours, and this A none but Death shall soperate us. Thanks dear Mersilva, Phoio reply'd; and to reon, taliate your Affection, take my Heart for and Hand, in Pledge of my immortal Constancy; vowing before the Imperial Throne of Heaven, that nothing shall withdraw my Zeal from ferving and honouring Mersilva. Thus having plighted their Troths to each other, they a long time remained folacing themselves; till at last night approaching, which Summon'd Prince Plivio to depart; when taking his Angelical Saint by the Hand, and fixing his Eyes upon the divine mirrour of her Heavenly Beauty, he with a Sigh gave her this Friend ly Farewell. Dear Mersilva, I must now be constrained to leave you to the Chaos of your fuminating Contemplations; but I will

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repair to my Closet, and there contrive means for establishing our future Tranquility; so that till I am again made Fortunate, by enjoying the Excellency of your divine presence, I in all faithfull Affection, take my forrowfull Leave.

Merfilva changing her Countenance to a pale Complection, with Tears, made him

this Answer.

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Dear Plivio! as you value my Affection, let your Return be with Expedition; for fear, least wanting your presence, I 'immediately dye in the Contemplation of your absence; therefore at my sin-'cere Request, satisfie my ardent Expe-'cation; and in recompence thereof, as 'I intend to live in your Favour, fo I re-'folve to dye in your vertuous Affection. Thus with many Sighs at parting, Merfilva went to her Closet; and Plivio betook himself to converse with his Cousin Thalmo, to whom he related the Event of his Fortunate proceedings, and the Profperous Conclusions of his amorous Enterprize; who being exceedingly fatisfied, ask'd if his Lady were contented to leave the Court and Travel with him: He told him, he had motion'd it to her, and her Reply was very effectual, that the would would accompany me, as far as the Con Thalm fines of the World would permit, or I de with if fire. 'Why then, replyed Thalmo, the Prince Prince Athelia and Mersilva, simpathi the him zes in one Agreement, and hath vowed they no more, than Athelia defires to perform and g 'To reside here is but Folly, in resped neces we are absent from our native Country Resol and to acquaint any with our Affection and is not proper; therefore let us hafter their our Departure, and direct our Course their our own Residence; lest prolixity of the time, discover the secrets of our Pre derst tence, and so the beginning of our hope their be crost by Envy, in the bloomy blot ded. foms of their Maturity; which to a void, let us with speed through the Wood and Forrests, convey our Ladies from the fight of any; for if the Report of our Departure reaches the Ears of King Brylion, he will, without question, us his utmost Severity against us, and ei ther deprive us of our Lives or Li berties.

Prince Plivio attentively liftned to hi Confin's Exhortations, and allowed we of the Design, which he had contrive for their Retirement; the which the bet to accomplish, he defired his Coul

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Con Thalmo, to acquaint the Princess gtheir I de with it, and he would do the like toow the Princess Mersilva, to the end, that whe athi the hour of Departure should be affigued, wee they might put themselves in an Equipage, orm and get such things ready, as might be ped necessary for their Journey: Upon which try Resolution, each departed to his Lady, tion and in many amorous Terms, declared after their Resolutions, and not only discovered set their Births, but also their direct Names; the which, when they no sooner understood, were extreamly satisfied, and to their Resolutions, very soon condescen-ded.

Bythis time our two Princes, having apparent proofs of each others Affections, and burrong ning with Defire to fet forward their Entert o prizes; instantly appointed the next Night following, at the outer Gate, betwixt Twelve and One, they would attend the happy ei Arrivals of their dear Princesses; which Warning, tho' short, seemed so sweet to the Ladies Imaginations, that they very pleasantly deluded the time in familiar Discourse; till at last, the hour as they thought being come, and no Princes appear'd, they metamorphos'd their Mirth, to Melancheliness, and their Joy to Dis-

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would accompany me, as far as the Con Thalm fines of the World would permit, or I de with it fire. 'Why then, replyed Thalmo, the Prince Prince Athelia and Mersilva, simpath the he zes in one Agreement, and hath vowe they it no more, than Athelia desires to perform and get the prince of the prince To reside here is but Folly, in respect neces we are absent from our native Country Resol and to acquaint any with our Affection and is not proper; therefore let us haste their our Departure, and direct our Courset their our own Residence; lest prolixity of the time, discover the secrets of our Prederst tence, and so the beginning of our hope their be crost by Envy, in the bloomy blooded. foms of their Maturity; which to a By void, let us with speed through the Wood rent; and Forrests, convey our Ladies from ning the fight of any; for if the Report of prize our Departure reaches the Ears of Kin follo Brylion, he will, without question, ul and his utmost Severity against us, and a Arri ther deprive us of our Lives or L War berties.

Prince Plivio attentively listned to he please Confin's Exhortations, and allowed we Difc of the Design, which he had contrive thou for their Retirement; the which the be pear to accomplish, he desired his Coul to A

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Royal Flower of Fidelity.

Con Thalmo, to acquaint the Princess. I de with it, and he would do the like to the Princess Mersilva, to the end, that who the hour of Departure should be assigned, own they might put themselves in an Equipage, form and get such things ready, as might be specified necessary for their Journey: Upon which necessary for their Journey: Upon which and in many amorous Terms, declared after their Resolutions, and not only discovered their Births, but also their direct Names; you the which, when they no sooner understood, were extreamly satisfied, and to stope their Resolutions, very soon condescentible ded.

Bythis time our two Princes, having apparent proofs of each others Affections, and burning with Defire to fet forward their Enterprizes; instantly appointed the next Night following, at the outer Gate, betwixt Twelve and One, they would attend the happy de Arrivals of their dear Princesses; which Warning, the short, seemed so sweet to the Ladies Imaginations, that they very pleasantly deluded the time in familiar we Discourse; till at last, the hour as they thought being come, and no Princes appear'd, they metamorphos'd their Mirth, to Melanchelines, and their Joy to Discourse in the pleasantly deluded the time in familiar being come, and no Princes appear'd, they metamorphos'd their Mirth, to Melanchelines, and their Joy to Discourse in the pleasantly deluded the time in familiar being come, and no Princes appear'd, they metamorphos'd their Mirth, to Melanchelines, and their Joy to Discourse in the pleasantly deluded the time in familiar being come, and no Princes appear'd, they metamorphos'd their Mirth, to Melanchelines, and their Joy to Discourse in the princes appear'd, they metamorphos'd their Mirth, to Melanchelines, and their Joy to Discourse in the princes appear in the princes appe

The Garden of Love, and

But, alas! these Ladies were ladies deceived; for the Dial of their Fan Estate

s, told the Hour of Assignation, before behow
the Horologe sounded, and the Clock on is ow
their Imaginations struck Twelve and One he est
e'er the Essence of Twelve, far less ming l Eleven, was in Election to be finished ociate yet in fuch forrowfull manner they past 'Pr the time, till at last their two Princes ardally rived, giving a shrill Holla, which served for a Watch-word; which the Ladies, to show their Delight, no sooner heard, but reassuming their Courage, and a Vermillious on Blush taking possession of their Milks ty se white Cheeks, they in their traveling wear Apparel descended; at whose glorious fice Appearance, our two Princes advanced, noth and faluted them; no words could they utter, because their Tongues, by the power of Love, were devoted to Silence, but all without that pass'd vere Volleys of Sighs; which finding redoubling, each other strove which strong should first Unite each other strove which strong the Sympathy of Affection Rut in story they have din a moment, they heard in the Ruthers. and in a moment, they heard in the Pa wher lace a great noise, as if all the Court had Horse been in an Uproar; which fo amazer takin them, that they knew not how to fave medi themselves, nor where to convey their loped

Ladie

ver Ladies; till at last Thalmeno knowing their fan Estate desperate, and perceiving it now fore behooved him to cast at all, either to lose konis own Life, or his dear Athelia, whom ne ne esteemed far more precious; re-assules ming his Courage, he to his trembling As ed fociates faid as followeth.

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oast 'Prince Phivio, this is no time for us to ard dally with, therefore with undaunted ved Courage lead forth your Lady, and if to any presume to stop your Passage, in-re- stantly sheath your Sword in the persidious Slave's Breast; and without prolixiik. ty fend his fervile Soul to the Commoning wealth of Pluto, for a meritorious Sacrious fice: And you illustrious Ladies, fear.

d, nothing, for your Vertues are a sufficient Bulwark for your preservation.
Which said, they went hand in hand, all without finding any to resist 'em; and ich finding the Porter in his Lodge asleep, priich vately took from him the Keys of the Paith lace; when unbolting the outward Gate, or they without making anymoife iffined forth, Pa where they found their Pages, each with a Horse, attending them. Glad of this News; taking their Ladies behind them, they immediately mounted, and with speed gal-

lei loped through the Streets; where in a hon

thort time having past both Town an Book, Suburbs, they at last began to conside which what Course to take; fearing that whe oulin the King missing the Princes, he should hem. with all possible Celerity make speed for their Apprehension, they finally resolve to go through the Woods and Forrests, the better to shelter them from the fight of a my which should presume to follow 'em by vertue of which Resolution, they made that night such speed, that before mor ning they found themselves very near 29 Leagues from the Court. The next mor ning as they were swiftly riding by a For rest's side, through the Branches they e spied a very pleasant Cottage; which both Athelia and Mersilva desirous to enter, re quested their Princes to alight and accompany them, who glad in any thing that might procure their Ladies refreshment thereunto condescended; so leaving the Pages with their Horses, they enter the good Forrest, directing their way to the Cor Proff cage; where they were no fooner arrived to his but thinking to find some Shepherdels, in retur stead thereof, beheld a very heautiful young Man, which feemed to be over

rols come with Grief, fitting very forrowfull that flumbering on a green Bank, having

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Book, Pen, Ink and Paper close by him; which hearing the found of their Voices, outing up his Spirits, came and faluted. hem.

'Renowned Knights, and fair Ladies: Admire not at my Sorrows, nor wonder at my Disconsolateness; for it is powerfull Fortune which hath invested me with this miserable Calamity; but to extirpate his Tyranny, and to triumph over his Usurpation, I have here folitarily retired my felf to this Grove, to live, tho' not so well contented as I could wish, yet fo well pleased as one in my Estate can receive; my rural Cottage affords no Dainties, but Poverty; yet fuch as it is, if you please to accept, I shall render my felt most fortunate, and in whatever it comes short of your expectation, I will supply in freeness of Service and Thanks. Our Princes and Ladies perceiving his good Humour, and the Nature of his kind Proffers, thinking themselves far indebted

to his Bounty, Prince Palma very friendly return'd him this Answer.

'Sir, the Friendship which in our Trawis you are pleased to afford us, are of that extent, that we find our selves so far in Arrears, that we blolutely confels

cannot at present repay you with a julk Recompence for your unmerited Fa yours; nevertheless, according to the Actions of Reason, and Rules of Amity we return you very hearty Thanks so

this your extraordinary Humanity, affuring you, that if ever any favourable Subject prefents, wherein, in honour

we may partly retaliate your Civility, you fhall find us generally fo willing, as the effects thereof shall no ways tax us of In

gratitude.

Which was no fooner pronounced, bu the Stranger taking the two Ladies by the hands, requested them, and the two Prin ces to enter his Hermitage; where he pre lented them with a Banquet of dryed Figs Dates, and Apricocks, with other Fruits as that Country did afford; which being ended, he asked the Ladies if they would please to recreate themselves in the Gar den; the which they very thankfully ac cepted off: fo the Princes leading them and the Stranger shewing the way, fort they went; where passing through a fra grant Walk, befer with Fir-Trees, they last attain'd the Entrance of the Garden where they were no fooner arrived, he

he two odorife Herbs, and head defty

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the two Princesses after having viewed the jul pdoriferous Flowers, and the fragrant Fa Herbs, they to avoid the Sun's brightness, th and heat, with as much Celerity as Modesty would permit, betook themselves to the Bowers, where their beloved Princes fly with divine Salutes and Complements, able congratulated them their happy Welcome: ou the Stranger viewing their innocent Famiyou liarity, immediately wept, as if those heavenly Objects had some regal Prerogative to command his Tears; but to drive away his Sorrows which his Passion had created. he went to his Cottage, and returning speedily, brought with him an harmonious Lute; the which after having tuned, joining his excellent Voice, he fung thefe Lines.

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Wake all ye dead, what ho! what ho! How foundly they fleep, whose Pillows lie low : They mind not poor Lovers that walk above. On the Decks of the World, in Storms of Love; No whifpering now, nor glance can pals, Through Wicket, or through Panes of Glass: The Windows and Doors are fout up and barr'd, They lie closein the Church, & in the Church-yard: In every Grave make room, make room, For the World's at an end, and I come, I come.

The State is now Love's Foe, Love's Foe, Has seiz'd on his Arms, his Quiver and his Bow, hey for He has pinion'd his Wings and fetter'd his feet, y a Because be made way for poor Lovers to meet Bark t But ob sad Fate! bis Judge was old, Hearts cruel are, when blond grows cold. No Man being young, bis Process could draw; Ob Heavens! that Love should be subject to Law; Let Lovers go wooe the dead, the dead, Lye two in a Grave, and two in a Bed.

No fooner had he ended these Lines, but he instantly began afresh to weep, and fo determining to affuage his Sorrows, with a Complement he presently departed, walking a distance from them in a fair Summer-house; the which our Royal Couplesperceiving, began immediately to furmise that he was in Love with some cruel Lady, whose rigorous Repulse was the Motive of his Passion; but pondering on his Grief by their own Sorrows, and his Difconfolateness by their own late Distemper, they all bewailed his Misfortune, and comaftionated his Affliction; lamenting that ever their Arrival should renew his Grief, or bring that afresh into his Memory which proved his Torment. At length Athelia and Mersilva 'rose up, which That-

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Bow, hey followed them; where passing along feet, by a stately Pine-Tree, they upon the sark thereof espied some Characters to be cariously carved, and approaching near, they read these Words.

The Idea of Florina shall never depart

my Memory.

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Which Characters perusing, and pondering what the Lady therein mentioned might be, they immediately went and advertised Thalmeno and Palma, who were walking at some distance, who not a little admiring to hear the Name of Florina there decyphered, began to conjecture that he might be Prince Medor: in respect whereof, to satisfie their ardent Desire; they with their Ladies went towards him, where being entred the Bower, Thalmeno delivered himself in these Words.

'Sir, I befeech you in Friendship to certisse me, whether you are acquainted with
the Princess Florina, Daughter unto the
King of Namidia; and also whether you
know Prince Medor, Son unto the King
of Biafara.

The Stranger no fooner heard pronounced the facred Name of Floring, but he instantly fell to the Ground; when closing

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his Eyes, one would have thought he refolv'd as then to take his Farewell of the Son to
World: the which our Princesses no soon two ye
er beheld, but they so employed their best depart Skill, that in a short time he recover'd; and ching raising himself, he in a sighing manner ing the breath'd out these Words.

a Guio 'Ah Florina! whose Name infuseth by m Life to my weak Senses! then fetching a Defar deep Sigh, faid 'Most Generous Knights our t and Beautifull Ladies, I have had the condi ' Happiness to be acquainted with the Princels Florina, and am that unfortunate Mes dor which you enquire for; unfortunate I may well declare, in being absent from Florina, the Memory of whose Divine Beauty hath this many Months been the Goddess of my Devotions; therefore I befeech you, if you can give me any Information of that worthy Person, I would beg you in all humanity to eafe my mind; and to congratulate your Civility, I will for ever remain Your affectionate Ser-

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To which Thalmeno replyed, Prince Medor as you have with that Civility received us, fo I will no longer conceal from you those which are your Debtors; I

vant.

am Thalmeno, Son and Heir to the King

re- of Cicilia, and this Prince, my Cousin, he Son to the King of Egypt; who some two years fince resolved to travel, having of departed from my Father's Court, dired' Aing our Course to Africa, and journeyer ing three days alone, being destitute of a Guide, and unskilfull of the Country, by misfortune strayed into an unknown Defart; but Fortune willing to intermix our bitter Sorrows with some pleasures, 'conducted us fortunately to a beautifull 'Castle, which entring, we found the Princels Florina thereof the defolate Inhabitant, who having forfaken her Fa-'ther's Court, vowed to remain, untill the 'joyfull Return of your Princely felf; therefore Prince Medor, if you please to honour us with your good Company, we are bound for Civilia, and immediately upon our Arrivals, with leave of the Powers Divine, we will conduct you to the melancholly place of her folitary Retirement.

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Prince Medor, being very well pleafed? with this fortunate News, very freely accepted of their Proffer, and promised to accompany them; and with fo chearfull a Countenance, that in his mortiferous Spirit it semed the absent Idea of Floring

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had infused exact Vitality: but at last fix fo ing his Eyes upon the sweet Object of the to Ladies Beauty, and pondering on his difu vine Florina, he carneftly demanded of W Thalmeno who those beautifull Ladies were. N and what private Occasion induced them C to Travel; who related to him the whole Circumstance of their Proceedings, and of their Defire to travel to Cicilia: he thereupon having complemented them in a very high manner, voluntarily proffer'd to conduct them thro? the Vineyards, and Champion Countreys to the Sea-fide; the Princes and Ladies being very well pleafed, prepared instantly to depart, where they were no fooner arrived, but Prince Medor very fortunately met with a Sip of War of Madagascar, which belonging to Duke Alphonfo his Uncle, was by tempestuous Weather and contrary Winds forced there to take Harbour. Glad of this unexpected Opportunity, they immediately contracted a Bargain with the Mafter for their Passage, and with a favourable Wind they failed for Cicilia. On the Seas follong remained, that after many tempeftuous Storms, they at last fafely attain'd Gibralta, the Entrance of the Mediterranean Streights, and so with Joy keeping on their Course

last fix for the desired Island of Cicilia, they were A of the towards night, very quietly becalmed, in n his di fuch a manner, that their Ship made no aded o way, but only floated upon the Face of es were. Neptune, according as the flackness of the d them Current drave her; fo that at last keeping e whole good Watch, as the third Glass was in elegs, and ction to be finished, the Master walking in: he aloft upon the spare Deck, heard the noise hem in of Oars plowing in the Entrails of Theris; roffer'd whereat resolving to prevent the worst, ds, and he mounted the main Shrows, directing e; the fill his Eyes by his Ears, fo long, till at leafed, last he espied a very stout Galley swiftly e they making towards them: at which unlook'd Medor for Accident, he with his filver Whiftle, War of alarm'd the whole Company in the Ship, ke Alwho quitting their Hammocks, mounted Weathe upper Deck, admiring exceedingly ere to what this unaccustomed Accident meant: pected but the Mafter shewing them the occasion, ontrathey instantly with Heroical Resolutions, their fetch'd forth their Muskets, and provided they all things which might be any ways needng refary for a Combate: amongst the rest, the tuous Master Gunner burning with Defire to alter, thew some Experience of his Praise-wor ights. thy Art, requested the Captain to permit ourle him to make a shot or two towards them: for

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whereat condescending, a couple of half of th Piece of Ordnance were provided, and which discharged off with such Fury, that it not down perce only made a Massacre amongst the miserable Slaves, but also at so sudden a motion made the Commanders themselves tremble, in such a manner, as forced them to pull in their Oars, let down their Sails, and to stand upon their Guards: which the Mafter perceiving, and knowing they would linger till the next day, having appointed each his Place, and in his Ablence gave the chief Officers their Charge, he immediately went down to the Cabin, to comfort our almost comfortless Lovers, who alas! lay in a posture of Despair; for they no fooner heard the Report of the Shot, but they generally thought it came from some near harbouring Enemy; they were all in an Extafie of Sorrow, blaming Fortune for his Frowns, and exclaiming a-gainst their Miseries: Which the Master perceiving, comforted them in the best manner he could, and advis'd them to be cheerfull; adding moreover, that there was no Danger, and in the morning he did not doubt of being Conqueror: whereupon our three Princes comforted their two forrowfull Ladies, who began to doubt

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f half of their own, and the Princes Safeties; , and which created many Tears that distilled it not down their Cheeks; which our Princes mife- perceiving, and being very eager to purotion chase their Freedom, solemnly departed the Cabin, and thrust themselves amongst the Mariners; whom most Couragioully they animated with fuch Exhortations, that they generally protested to Sacrifice their Lives, for the Establishing of their Tranquilities. So that when Night was expired, and Day began to draw near, our Masters and Princes so ordered their Affairs, that the Flags and Streamers were abroad playing with the Wind, and all things ready in their proper Orders the Master upon the Poop with his Silver Sword, to wheafe them to the Lee-ward, and the Trumpets ready at the Beck, to found the first On-set: on the contrary part, the Galley sported her self in the Pride of her Warlike Jollity, and with a valorous Resolution came towards them: when instantly the Wind began to afresh, our Master, by the consent of the three Princes, went by their fhort Sails within Cannon shot, resolving to attend their coming, and with Honour to fight it out: The which the Galley Slaves perceiving. begar

Began to cry Victoria, thinking that they infl had already yielded. But, alas! they were deceived of their Hopes; for thinking to Board them, the Ship in a moment poured in her small Shot, as thick as Hail, and therewithall gave fuch a Broad-fide, which in the Galley made fuch a rattling Thunder, that their Rails, Penets, year Hatches, and all began to advance to the Skies: There might you have feen fome dangerously wounded, which lay gasping their last; some already slain, imbruing themselves in their Fellows Blood; and some, whose Heads slying from their Bodies, went to advertise their Friends of their wofull Tragedies.

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The Captain and Commanders of the Galley, raging at the unexpectedness of receiving so hot an Entertainment, disdaining to dye in their Debts, bad their Gunners give Fire; where betwixt them was fo furious a Fight, that it was hard to judge on which fide Victory would incline: But when the fatal day was almost finished, wherein many had lost their Lives, the Galley most dangerously received flich a Shot, between Wind and Water, that all within it made fuch a hideous Cryswhich our Princes understanding, inftantly

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at they instantly conceived some Hopes of they Victory; whereupon they affesh let flye think their Cannon; which made such Breaoment ches in the Galley, that they feeing no Hail, hope whereon to relye, immediately lifide, yielded: Which our Princes and Comttling pany perceiving, for fudden joy gave a yea great shout for the Conquest of so Fathe mous a Victory; when instantly they hoisome I fted out their Shallop, and were in great ping Parley, which of them should go Commander: Thalmeno he willingly offered his Service, and Palma he vowed not to flay behind; but Prince Medor, feeing his Affociates in Contention, flept in, and furiously protested, they should both stay with their Ladies, for he would only go Master of the Ship. They hearing of his voluntary Resolution, gave Sentence he should: Whereupon, with a noise of Trumpets, away went Prince Medor and Thalmeno and Palma returned down to the Cabin, where their Ladies came reciprocally to congratulate them of their great and fortunate Victory; where fo joyfull a Meeting betwixt them was demonstrated, that their minds, which before swimmed in the Ocean of Despair. did now float upon the Waves of Plea-

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fantness; tor their pale Complexions were metamorphos'd to cherry Counter nances; and their mournfull Eyes which were almost drowned in Tears, did now clear up with Vivacity; and in short, all received fuch Satisfaction, as my ab. rupt Pen cannot Delineato. Prince Medor being being now near the Galley, at last very resolutely entred his Men, without finding any Opposition; who feeing they were all hid, by found of Trumpet Commanded their Appearance: Who came forth in a trembling manner, and feeing their Enemies with their Swords drawn, immediately fell on their Faces and defired Pardon: Upon which Submission, Prince Medor Commanded his Men, that upon pain of Death, not to hurt them, either in Body or Goods: Which the Captain understanding, came forth and begg'd his Life, which Prince Medor instantly granted : Whereupon, after he informed of whence the Galley. was, and to whom he belonged, he to the Prince addressed himself in these Words.

Although it grieves me, couragious Knight, to be conquered by any, yet fince my Fortune must needs endure the

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Frowns of War, I rejoyce in my Happinels to become Tributary to fo worthy a Person; therefore Noble Sir, since you have with fuch heroical voluntariness spared our Lives, I must acquaint you, that within this next Cabin, there is resident a vertuous Lady, whom Fortune hath made our Prisoner; her Extraction I know not, but if outward Deportment does describe inward Qualities, I presume she is some Person of noble Descent; her Behaviour, though in Advertity, is fuch, that as the carries her perplexity with a modest Countenance, so she disdains to render her self Tributary to the Infidelity of Fortune.

Prince Medor no sooner understood this unexpected News, but burning with Defire to know what this Lady might be, very friendly commanded the Captain to bring him to her presence; where he was no sooner arrived, but he beheld this dolefull Lady imbathing her self in Tears, lying prostrate on the soar, with her Visage over-vail'd, and being as it were in a Lethargy; thinking that the first that entred was the Harbinger of Death, and the inhumane Instrument of her untimely Martyrdome; but behold, it sell out otherwise.

wise; for when she expected he would Diving sheath his Sword in her innocent Breast, ound why even then he took her by the Lilly eview hand, and with an amiable Voice uttered ped to thefe Words. enta

Arife, fair Lady! for your Life and the ware Liberty is granted you: whereat in a were moment, as being acquainted with the hand Voice, she started, and perceiving it was so the Prince Medor which pronounced that wellity to come Sentence, being transported with re-al an extraordinary Passion, she fell into a vitin Trance. Prince Medor perceiving this the tragical unexpected Accident, failed not Flori to employ his best endeavour for her reamon covery; and so thinking to raise her up, by chance the Veil falling from her beautifull Face, he perceived it to be his fair Florina; but being aftonished, he doubted the fincerity of his Eyes, whilst a second Surview of her Person confirm'd his Belief, and finding her to be effentially his unlook'd for Florina, with a swift Resolution advancing his Pace, he with open Arms went and embrac'd her; where fo delightfull a Meeting was betwixt them demonstrated, that from so pleasing a soface it was meer Sacriledge to separate them : Prince Medor reflecting apon the

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would Divine Object of Florina's Beauty, he fo reast, ound his Mind devoted to silence, that the Lilly eview of her cherry Countenance wraptered bed up his Senses in an Extasse of Conentation, which forced him into a Trance: and the which Florina perceiving, melting as it in a were into Tears of Sorrow, with her fair the hands began to corroborate his Temples; t was so that her sovereign Breath infusing Vitativel-lity to his sickly Senses, made him again. with re-affume his wonted Courage; when innto a viting his wandering Tongue to display this the Secrets of his wavering mind, taking not Florina by her Alablaster hand, he pro-

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Dear Florina, might I finish my days up, auti- in thy Embraces, or now facrifice the remainder of my Life before thy Di-'vine Deity, I should not only account 'my felf favoured of the Saints in affording me fuch good Fortune, but also e-'steem my Enterprizes more then happy, in being ratified by the Synod of the Gods themselves: but Dear Floring, since the bleffed Sight of thy lovely Self have fo freed me from the Chains of Bondage, and from the Fetters of Despair, I here. 'present you with my Service, Constancy, and Fidelity; and as I have long fince

and never wavering Servant to the end

Florina.

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Which heavenly Speeches Florina no fooner heard, but overshadowing her Lilly Cheeks with a Crimfon dye; having im red bath'd her tender Mind in Love, and her Refolutions in Affection; she in her deli- onato cate hand taking her Handkerchlef to wipe dent away those pearled Tears from her lovely Countenance, with an amiable, yet for rowful Voice, she returned him this Anfwer.

Dear Prince Medor were I acquainted with that friendly God which ratified

thy Freedom, or with that favourable

Saint which re-conducted thee to my

presence; my fincere Congratulation hould display it self with what Constan-

cy I attended your coming, and now

with what Amity I honour thy Arrival: therefore welcome Dear Prince to thy

forrowfull Floring, and Millions of Thanks

to gracious Mars for investing me Cap-

tive to fo fortunate a Conqueror. Since thy Departure I have lived most comfort-

less, yet in enjoying once more thy pre-

Beauty fence, I now bury the memory of all aithful former Griefs in the Grave of Oblivion; end invincible Affection hath so captivated my Spirits, and conquered my Senses, that only I now live to respect dear Mena no dor, and in spight of all Fortune's Effects, Lilly refolve to dye in the League of his defi-

g im red Friendship. d her The Prince pondering upon her affectideli- onate Words, not able to contain such arwipe dent Expressions, cry'd out, 'Ah Dear, ovely Florina! whose fight infuses Vitality to for my amazing Senses; banish now from And thy Breast the Memory of Sorrow, and let Contentment flourish in thy mind; for now before the Shrine of thy facred felf, upon the Altar of Fidelity, Medor presents thee with so compleat a Portion of undaunted Friendship, as you can a-'ny ways defire, or the God's diffribute: 'and Dear Florina, fince Fortune hath so ordained it, that now contrary to my ex-'pectation, you are made my happy Prisoner, Know Empress of my Thoughts, and Angel of my Imaginations, that in

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nks 'most honourable Company I am bound apace for Cicilia, where as focn as arrived, I irt-

will most willingly solemnize our Nup-

tials, and ratifie my beautifull Florina to

dear Medor, that having long fince De voted my felf yours, I will now Repent me of my Enterprize, but rather I be.

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feech you Consider, at least, if my Pray.

ers may gain acceptance in your Amity, that Floring, esteems the Seal of our Nup

tials, to be the entrance of her Fortunacy, and the uniting of our Affections, the

very Quintessence of her Felicity; therefore I beseech you delay no time, but ra-

ther advance thy Enterprize; to the end, that Prince Meder receiving the

chief Solace of his Breaft, Florina may

reciprocally enjoy the defired Object of

her immortal Affections.

To which the Prince replyed, "Why then my fair Florina, make ready for thy

Departure; to the end, that I may in-

form my Princely Affociates of our Happiness, and so prosecute our Voyage

to Cicilia: To Cicilia! faid Florina. And then the pearled Tears trickled down her Vermillion Cheeks; which Medor perceiv-

ing, defired her to let him know the occafion of that sudden Passion. To which mon

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e replied, Since I first heard you Repeat the Name of Cicilia, my present loys doth afresh put me in mind of my former Miferies: For dear Prince, having for thy fake, sequestred my self from all Company, and built up my Residence in a desolate Castle; there unexpectedly arrived two Foreign Knights from Cicilia, who in reward of some small Favour I afforded them, protested very folemnly to refearch thee out, at least, if the Confines of Africa did contain thee. Prince Medor reply'd, 'And have you not fince heard of their Adventurous Proceedings? No, reply'd Florina, which much troubles me, in respect they were Compassionate of my Sorrows, and Admirers of my Affections. Thus with most pleasant Discourse they deluded the Time, till Florina rush'd out of her Cabin, and taking him by the Hand, said, Come dear Prince, let us depart from hence, and Crown our Mileries with the Triumph of Content; Fortune you know, is variable, therefore let us sip no time, while opportunity doth present; only this I do request of you, that these miserable Slaves, who by your conquering Valour are made

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Captives, may without prejudice themselves or Goods, have free pe

e mission to depart safely.

aken Prince Medor highly Commended has eross' for projecting so Charitable a Vertue, ver Ladio freely thereunto Condescended, and not, difmissing his Prisoners, he Commande his Shallop to be made ready, and with nto I noise of Trumpets chearfully departed we b but long he floated not on the Surges of Thetis, till a favourable Gale re-conducte him fafe to his Ship, where entring and enquiring for the Princes; Answer wa instantly made him, that they were inthe Cabin, recreating the Ladies with Mu fick; whereupon leaving Florina for while in another Cabin, he went to the Princes and Ladies, to participate of their Exquisite Harmony: The which, That meno and Palma no fooner perceived, bu laying their Instruments aside, each par ticularly with his Lady, went and congra tulated his fafe Return, asking him the News of his Success: To which he re ply'd, 'Princes and Ladies, Instead of rich Prize, I have met with an Inestima ble Jewel, the valuation whereof can not be cast up by the whole industriou

Science of Arithmetick, nor by the noble

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Art of Algebra. No? replyed Athelia and te pe Mersilva, Why then we believe you have ed he gross'd the Mint of Mexico, or else in-Ladies, replyed the Prince, that I have not, and yet I divinely rejoyce in possessing so Sacred a Present. Wherewith with the new Palma and Thalmeno reply'd, 'Then we believe Prince Medor, you have received some Information of the Princess lucte Florina, or else seen the resembling Idea g and of her beautifull Perfections. The rince hearing the divine Name of his with the hearing fome Smiles: So stepping to the ucing some Smiles: So stepping to the lucing some Smiles: So stepping to the lucing some Smiles: So stepping to the by the Hand, he presented her to the whole Company; at which Thalmeno and Palma respecting their Observations in his por her Angelical Beauty, presently par Conjectured her to be the admired Floringram in hut not able to ratisfe their suspenses. can her Speculation upon their Aspects, immediately judg'd them to be the admired Floring and the statement of the fide Floring fixing the Influence of the Speculation upon their Aspects, immediately judg'd them to be Tourner and

and Palma; but at last, after many of rince fervations, Thaimeno began to believe oth that it was absolutely fair Florina; upo fair that it was absolutely fair Florina; upo far which, kissing her hand, he congratule ong ted her.

'Madam, you are thrice welcome the joyfull Thalmeno, and Millions of Thank neir to kind Fortune, for investing my Eye erru

with the Object of fuch unexpected Hap '!

piness! Florina hereat colouring he fin Cheeks with a Crimfon Blush, return yo him this Answer.

Thanks Noble Prince, for your heroical Goodness; and more than fortunate ig am I, to be the effential Subject of your

Favours. Prince Palma here interrupt. en ing her, went likewise and kissed her fair hand, and congratulated her; where betwixt these three Majesticks of Affection, fuch joyfull Expressions of Friendship was repeated, that Athelia and Mersilva sitting attentively in a corner, (unseen of Florina) admired what this unlooked-for Ob-

ject was; for first entertaining some Sparks of Jealousie, they conjectur'd this beautiful Favourite was come on purpole to frustrate their Expectations : but in-Hanry ballancing the Fidelity of their

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ny of finces by their own Affections, they believe oth thought in point of Friendship, and s upo fatisfie their Curiofity, to advance and gratul ongratulate her: but Prince Medor standg at some distance, and conjectured by ome the change of their Countenances, that

Thank heir Thoughts were in some disorder, iny Eye crupted them in this manner.
d Hap 'Fair Princesses, To be impartial, this
ng he sine Lady which is here presented to
cturn your Eyes, is my admired Florina, whom I honour and adore, as the Goddess of herois my Felicity. Athelia and Mersilva hear-tunate of this, and infusing into their Minds the f your nlook'd-for Event of this happy Accierrupt ent, demonstrating by their finiling Aer fair pects, that their Hearts were inwardly re be alled with Joy and Gladness, return'a

ction, im this Answer.

FINCES

ip was 'Prince Medor we heartily congratulate fitting you, and do exceedingly rejoyce, that Floristhe Celekial Deity hath crown'd all our r Ob. Affections, after our Sorrows; and that fome Fortune hath smil'd upon you, in the hapd this py Arrival of your Divine Floring! urpole Whereupon, they each of them faluted ut in er, and congratulated her happy Weltheir ome. Many affectionate Sighs, fweer 172

Smiles, and piercing Countenances, wer on each fide, with Demonstrations of lo for Prince Medor's and the Lady Floring happy Meeting. And now having fin shed their Congratulations, they wishe themselves safely landed upon the Short of Cicilia: the which the Master of the Ship perceiving, failed not to the utmo of his power to shorten their Sea-farin Voyage: fo that hoifting one more Sal and plowing through the Entrails of the Sea, they at last in a radiant day, very for tunately espied the Coasts of Cicilia which the Master perceiving, went in mediately and advertised our Royal Con pany of this fortunate News; which a looner was reported to them, but instan ly leaving their amorous Discourse, the very chearfully, being desirous of that lon wish'd-for fight, mounted the upper Ded by which time the Wind continually fresh ing, they were almost approaching the Shore; the Prospect of which so revive their fickly Senses, that Prince Thalme at last seeing the Ship at an Anchor, con manded the Boatswain to fer them shore.

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In which time the three Princesses es, were the totheir Cabinets, and adorned they lives in a very rich manner, that they lives in a very rich Celestial Nymphs, than Floring ather resembled Celestial Nymphs, than ather resembled Celestial Nymphs, than Image in Image Beauties, and sacred Queens than wishe Terrestrial Princesses. The happy hour of heir Departure being come, hand in hand, of the Ke Saints of Felicity, they rushed forth, the utmo presenting themselves to their Princes; a-faring the attending their Arrival received them ca-faring the melves to their Timess, who attending their Arrival, received them ore Sai with extraordinary Demonstrations of Love with extraordinary Demonstrations of Joy: s of th Then generally taking leave of their Company, and the Shallop being ready, they nost gallantly departed; at whose Farewell the Master gave such a thundering Volley of Ordnance, that the rebounding Eccho thereof drave the harbouring Cicilians into an Affrightment; presupposing that some foreign Enemy was come to invade them, that in whole Troops they directed their Course to the Sea-side; upon whose obdurateSands with Drums beating and Colours flying, they attended their landing.

> Our Princes perceiving this unexpected warlike Assembly, could not imagine the occasion of this Hostility; but to prevent the worst, they commanded a Flag of

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Truce to be demonstrated, and so drew rotte near the Shore : Which the Cicilians espy. rinc ing, they defired to know of what Countratif vith ery they were, and what this unaccusto. ip t med Alarm meant, and go advanced to prevent their Landing. But Prince That meno not minding their flourishing Brava. nim, Pala fed : do, commanded the Boatswain to set 'em read on shore: which no sooner was effected. forv but they congratulated their Ladies safe vert Arrival, and each taking his Lady by the Hand, they very Couragiously went for wards. The Cicilians thought to have had some hot Skirmish, but instead thereof, meeting with this weak Company, they dragg'd their Enfigns with Laughter in the Dust, which before were Displayed in the Air. The chief Commanders, out of Curiofity, defired to learn what this Tragi-Comedy meant, advanced their Pace towards our Royal Company; where glancing their Eyes upon the Beauty of the Ladies, they at last fixed their fight upon the Princes, and apparently perceived their Soveraign young Prince Thalmeno, to be there present: At which unexpected fight, they threw away their Weapons of War, and went and proftra-

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Koyat Promer of o drew ro trated themselves at his Feet. Which os espy Prince Thalmeno perceiving, after having Coun gratified their loyal affectionate Humility, ccusto, with Thanks, commanded them to muster ced to up their Forces, and fo to accompany him, and his Princely Affociates to the Brava. Palace. Which News was no fooner noised amongst the Camp, but they were all ready at their Arms, and gallantly march d es fafe forwards; the King by this time was adfor Prince his Son's Arrival, and instantly commanded three stately rich Coaches to e had be fent, to conduct him, and his Royal ereof. Companions to the Court; which was they done with fuch speed, that in a short n the time they drew near the Suburbs of Melaed in na, which being the Capital City of Ci-, out cilia, was so adorned on both sides the this way, with rich Tapestry Hangings on their the Windows and Balconies, Cannons and any; Enfigns planted on the Bulwark and Towa Beau. ers, in fo fplendant a manner, that their their outward Pomp was a demonstration of ently their inward Affections. The King his ince Father being certified of his near aphich proach, accompanied with the Queen, Way with a great Concourse of Ladies and Caand 14 Ara-

valiers, very Majestically went forth to try meet them, where before the Port Royal dorn he was graciously received, in such a man ion ner, as befitted his Royalty; the Queer of a likewise embraced him, and with joysuling his Tears congratulated his Welcome. Has we ving ended the Ceremony, with their by; beautiful Ladies, they in great Magnificence rode on to the City, at whose joy with full Entrance, the Loyal Inhabitants can him fed their Pieces of Ordnance to be diffous charged; the Streets also, as they past, nate were beautified with many stately Page less ants; where to demonstrate the Citizens ved voluntary Kindness, this Royal Company ly was feasted with curious Banquets, presented by Virgins of excellent Beauties: thus passing the streets in Splendour, through a Lane of Warlike young Men of the City, they at last arrived to the Palace, where a double Court of Guards, commanded by the chief Nobles of the Island, most famously received them.

Thalmeno having given the King his Father an Account of his Proceedings, and likewise of the vertuous Dispositions of the three Angelical Ladies, but especially of the Princels Athelia: The King willing

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orth to try the Experiment, whether she were Royal dorned with fuch rare Persections as his a man on affirmed, very privately invited her Queer o a secret Conference; where entertain joyful ing her with fundry intricate Questions, Hans well of Wit, as Loyalty; Love, as Modetheir by; he at last found her so compleatly agnificartuous, that comparing her Ingenuity le joy with her Princely Descent, he accounted ts can himself happy to be endued with so gracibe diff ous a Daughter, and his Son most fortu-Page less Beauty. The Queen likewise obser-tizem ved her modest Deportment, and Princeapany ly Qualities to be so adorned with affable Demonstratives of Goodness, that she esent. thus thought her not only to be a fecond Diaough na for Modesty and Chastity, but also ane Ci-

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excellent Calliope for ingenious Curiofity.

Whereupon she immediately thoughts that no greater Happiness could attend her Son, than to be graced with so sweet a Princess; so that the King and Queen both sympathetically triumphing, could not be satisfied, untill they had assigned a Day to perform their Nuptials; which was not long prefixing, for the next Festival day was appointed. Which heaven

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ly News Thalmeno and Athelia no foone more understood, but with many Millions of Triti amorous rejoycing they attended the hou by wherein their expectations should be Tou · crown'd.

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But to return to our other Princes and Ladies, who being informed of Prince Thalmeno's Fortunate Proceedings, wished themselves the like Enjoyment: which Thalmeno perceiving, measuring their languishing Sickness by his own Distemper, went immediately to the King his Father, and humbly requested that his two Prince. ly Companions might likewife under his gracious Favour, enjoy their vertuous Princesses: which he so authentically sollicited, that the King his Father to it foon condefcended', and that one day should confummate the general Triplicity of their Marriages.

This News was no fooner related by Thalmene to Palma, Prince Medor, and the Princesses, but being extreamly well pleaed, they heartily thanked him for so great vour. While these Royal Lovers were Amours beguiling the time, he King was very diligent in making Prewith pleasure artions for their Solemnity; and the PIOCE

Royal Flower of Fidelity.

foone more to dignifie that day with Heroical ions of Triumphs, he through his whole Island, he how by his Herald, commanded a Tilt and uld be Tournament to be proclaimed; whereunto not only the Nobles of his Dominion should be welcome, but also all foreign es and Prince Princes and Cavaliers whatfoever, might have free Accels. The Report whereof wished was no fooner dispersed through the harbouring Nations, but to Gicilia came in great Numbers, many valorous Troops of magnanimous Martialists; so that at the time appointed, as there wanted not Crouds of Spectators to behold the Triumphs, so there needed not innumerable of Cavaliers to fatisfie their Expectations.

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And now the joyfull day being come, which as the ingenious Cicilians did illuftrate with Terrestrial Bravery, fo the Gods themselves, in the Synod of their Resolutions did determine to adorn it with Heavenly Beauty : For Aurora had no sooner given the Night an overthrow, but splendant Titan began with his golden Rays to embellish the Day; when the Streets being hung with curious Tapeftry, the Pageants Adorned with gliftering Art and the Streets strewed with plessen Flowers

Flowers; by many Kings, Queens, nanr Lords and Ladies, these, our Royal Lords are R vers, were most Majestically conducted lies, to the Temple, where the Solemn Ma. and trimonial Rites were Celebrated: then re. Now turning to the Palace, they were with ecte fumptuous Feafts, curious Dances, and ed, Sarabands, with stately Masks, and variery of Musick, so extraordinary Entertained, that the Description thereof I cannot sufficiently relate. The Day now being over-ve'l'd with obscure Night, Summons these our amorous Lovers to their Bed-Chambers; where the Doors being thut, we will leave them to their amorous Pleasures, and return the next Day, wherein the Heroical Feats of Chivalry were to be accomplifhed.

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The Morn was fair, the Skies bright, the Wind calm, and Phæbus in his radiant Pavillion, delighted to Grace the Circumference of the Day, with his meridonial Beauty .: The Tilts being built, the Cavaliers ready, and the Herald prepared; let us a while leave the Court, and with Valour direct our History to the Camp; wherein a Gallery, Theatre, manner Royal Flower of Fraemy

eens hanner was fo Industriously built, that al Lo ne Royal Affembly, and Beautifull Laticted lies, might at their Ease be Spectators, Ma. and in Safety fit Un prejudiced of any. enre Now to begin with the Articles prowith ected for Tilting, it was thus ordainand ed.

That the Cicilians should Answer all eof I Comers.

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Whereupon by the King's Command; the Herald founded to the Combate; when instantly a Cicilian Knight, gallantly Mounted; entred the Lift, was prefently met with a Warlike Hungarian, who at the first Encounter, lodging his Launce in his Enemy's Breast, very valourously unhorfed him; to revenge whose Infamy, another Cicilian faluting the King, fetching his Career, galloped within the Lists; which, as the first, was by the Hungarian in a moment Vanquished. The King aftonished hereat, by his Royal Page, fent the Conqueror a Present; and fo extolling highly his Valour, Commanded two fresh Champions to be admitted; which instantly was accomplished: Bur wavering

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wavering Fortune resolved for a time heir to Smile on the strange Cavaliers, di by the instinct of her Influence, continu Mor ally afford them Victory; fo that of twen shou ty Cicilian Champions, which Encoun. Cha tred that day, not one remained Conqueror, but all to their immortal shame, returned Vanquished. The whole As fembly admiring hereat, could not refrain from Aftonishment; the which the King remarking, instantly Commanded the Triumphs for that Day to break off, and so the General Assembly departed. The Rumour of this was noised abroad, and almost in the Court, no other News, but the Vanquishing of the Cicilians. Our three young Princes, Thalmeno, Palma, and Medor, much incens'd to see their Associates Defeated, animating their Breafts, with Honour, Fame, and Magnanimity; they at last resolved, next Morning privately in Person, in despight of all the Effects of Fortune, to maintain the Combate: Upon which Determination, they went to the King's Armory, and chose each of them a Set of very rich Armour, imbossed with fixed Stars, and Roses of fine Gold; and the better to bring about their

time heir Defigns, they under-hand fo fecretly s, discought with the King, that the next Morning, to decide the Combat, there twen should be of each fide Elected three coun. Champions, whereof, whosoever remained Conqueror, should be invested with the Olympian Garland of Vie Af Gory.

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Whereupon Aurora no sooner appear'd in the Purple Sky, but the Drums traversing the Streets, advertised all, as well Natives as Foreigners of the King's intended Resolutions. The Cicilian Knights not knowing of the three Princes Intentions, prepared themselves for the Combate, and fo likewise did the Strangers, amongst whom they Elected three Magnanimous Princes, whose Names, anon, shall be related. In short, the King, Queen, and three Princesses, with the rest of the Nobility, were again seated in the Theatre, burning with Defire, to know on which fide Fortune would incline: The Herald no fooner founded to the Combate, but three strange Champions entred the Lift, being gallantly Mounted in filver Armour, enameled with Azure, their Plumes all white and blue

blue, prefiguring Hope: On the contrar the apart, whilst the Cicilians were in dispute hich which Three should enter, three gand in the Caviliers, being Cicilians, unexpectedly one arrived, richly mounted upon Snow es w white Barbarian Courfers, Apparelled in th green Armour, their Plumes crimfon and ther white, displaying the Beauty of their La imfe dies: The King and Company admiring pree who these unknown Cicilians were, com with mending their Valour, and Martial Dex. hou terity, Commanded them for to be Vor gin.

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The two foremost having paid their on Obedience, giving Spurs to their Horses, very valourously advanc'd; at which survey rious Encounter, they both fo gloriously who behaved themselves, that it was difficult to Ma Censure whose side Victory did most Fa- der your; but at last, the Cicilian making a gar short turn, planting his Launce in the Enemy's Crest, very gallantly bore him off in the Saddle, to the no little rejoicing of as the whole Affembly: The Second of Stranger, not any ways Discouraged, tw with his Companion's Misfortune, very Couragiously set forwards; who being by the next Cicilian, as bravely met, were both

tisfaction

ontra oth at first, very near Dismounted; in hich Triumphant Combate, having brogamen their Launces, they retired; but no ectedly oner were they Furnished by their Pa-Snow es with fresh Launces, but giving Spurs lled in their Courfers, they again advanced, on and there the Cicilian so gallantly behaved ir La imself, that at the next Encounter, he miring orced both Horse and Man to the Ground com with fuch Fury, that the whole Affembly Dex. hought he had bid a final Adieu to the to be World: Which the third Champion erceiving, with an undaunted Refolutitheir on gave Spurs to his Jennet; so the last orses, licilian Knight seeing him approach, with valorous Courage ran to encounter him; oully where betwixt these warlike Heroical alt to Martialists so many Acts of Chivalry was Fa. demonstrated, that the whole Assembly ng a gave fuch Expressions of Joy, at the view-Ene-ing of fo rare a Combate, that they were off infinitely well pleased. But to conclude, g of as the Influence of Time giveth a full periond od to all Terrestrial Accidents, so in the. ed, twinkling of an Eye, this strange Cavaery lier was by the Cicilian Knight most famoully vanquished, to the no little rejoycing of the Spectators; but also to the fa-

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tisfaction of the King himself; who shere this fortunate Victory, came in person to ader gratifie these Conquerours with his Roy gratifie these Conquerours with his Roy ate, Thanks; where, being unarmed, espy ed the ing them to be his Son Thalmeno, withth escen other two Princes Palma and Medor, very Co courteoufly went and embraced them cauti congratulating the Conquest of their Mag leme nanimities: The Queen likewise being heir advertised of this unexpected News, ac sieve companied with the Princesses Athelia al R Merfilva, and Florina, together with a number merous Train of glistering Ladies, came let it also to congratulate them, and so after many Complements and amorous Ceremo ies: nies were past, conducted them in a wix most triumphant manner to the Palace; elve where they were no fooner arrived, but which burning with defire to know who thele leric vanquished Knights were, they fo far prevailed with the King, that he presently dipatch'd away a Noble man, to invite them to the Court: when instantly the vanquished Cavaliers accompanied with many Troops of valerous Knights, direand their Pace to the Court, where pal fing the filver Hall and golden Gallery, they were conducted into the presence, where

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Royal Flower of Fidelity. ho here the King, Queen, and Princesses, font der a glorious Crimson Canopy of Roy are, imbossed with Diamonds, atten-espect their Arrival; at whose Entrance, ith the escending their Thrones, they advanc'd very Complement them: but our Three them leautiful Princesses just going to Com-lement them, glancing their Eyes upon being heir Physiognomy, immediately pers, ac leved they were their unexpected Natuthelia al Royal Parents: The fudden Vision and whereof, put them in some Disorder; came let it was to innocent, that it rather was Friend, than an Enemy to their Beauies: They quickly suppress it, and bein wixt Love and Duty, prostrated themace; elves at their Feet, craving Pardon: at
which amazing Accident, the Cavaliers,
these eriously observing their Beautiful Comfar plections, found them, absolutely, to bently their only. Daughters; so that Nav Affection, created Tears of R-

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with direpal ery, nce, lave from ale-

ting their Senses, in a joysull Acclamation spoke these Words.

Welcome dear Daughters to your forrowfull Parents, and Millions of Thanks to sacred fehovah, for investing our Eyes, with these so long desired Objects. Which the King, with his Queen, no sooner heard, but perceiving them to be the Happy Parents of these Vertuous Ladies, in a most Affectionate manner, went and congratulated them blessing the Divine Hour, which afforder

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them the Honour of their Presence, and Rejoicing, in their Arrivals they were made so Fortunate. The Three Ange lical Princesses all this while with Tear

in their Eyes, stood trembling, fearing lest their Fathers would reprove them for breach of Duty: Which their Pa

ents perceiving, demanded the Occasion their Disconsolateness; but they dy

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pleasure: Married! faid their Fathers, Royal Coufin, I befeech you to whom? o which King Druino, reply'd, ' Athelia to Prince Thalmeno, my Son, and Heir apparent to my Crown; Mersilva to Prince Palma, Son to Blithgora, King of Egypt, and Florina, to Prince Medor, Son to Orlando, King of Biafara. The which these Royal Parents no soonrunderstood, but rejoicing in that their Daughters were fo honourably match'd. hey went and most Affectionately Emraced them. King Druino feeing them herewith fo well fatisfied; moreover old them. That it were those three Princes, their Sons-in-law, that fo Vaouroufly had Conquer'd them; which gain administred so much Joy, that they lesired to bless their Eyes with the happy Object of their unknown Sons Perfor es; which immediately was north or our Heroical vo-

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fight of their Daughters, with an Affictionate Sympathy, they, in publick view generally ratified, that which before was

Solemnly Celebrated.

King Druino, perceiving this unexpe Ated Heroical Meeting, remarking how these sweet Martialists of Affection wer with their fweet Princesses fortunated United, failed not, in most Triumphan Order, to Imbellish this Royal Assem bly with extraordinary Grandeur: 8 as Banquetting these Foreign Kings with fuch Princely Entertainment, as was I quivolent to their Royal Persons, he long time retained them in his Cicilia Kingdom, to the no less joy of his faith full Subjects, than admiration of all Fo reign Spectators; many Days were en pired in Solemnizing these Triumphs, th Yonour whereof mounting the Skies, wa Eternity redound to the Cicilia

Royal Flower of Fidelity Affertainment, and taking their Grace Leave of the Queen, and Nobility re w licilia, they at last with their Princely s and Daughters Embarked themnexpe es: When a favourable Gale blowthem from the Cicilian Coast, did most hov fantly re-conduct them in Safety to wer natel r own Kingdoms: So as Thalmeno phan ig with his Fair Athelia arrived in the ritories of Zanfara; Palma, with his ffem et Mersilva, in the County of Bobe, and Medor, with his dear Florina, With he Confines of Numidia, they all hapvas E there lived in the height of most he icilis prous Affection: Till at last, Death amoned their aged Parents to pay faith Forme her Due; and being deprived e ex n the Vanity of this Earthly Kinga, to be invested Saints in the Cele , the Manarchy our ---- Dringer , WI icilia

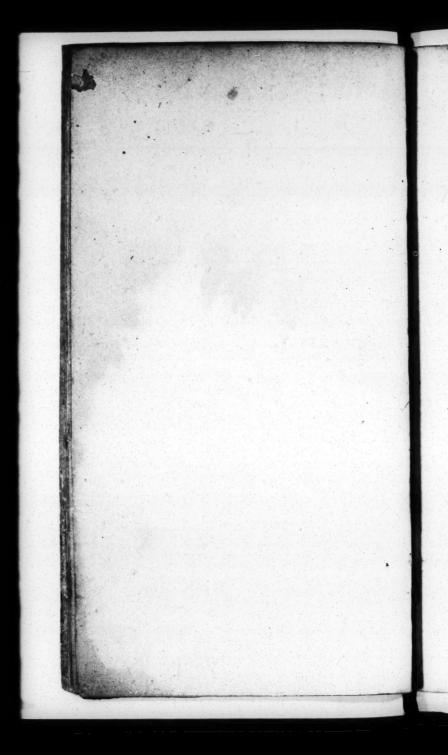
Boddington, ar the Golden-Ball in Duckle

Describing its Situation, Division into Describing its Situation, Division into vinces, Shires, &c. Its Ancient Inhabitants, ners, Customs, &c. With the several Revolutions of the Natives, and by what means have been reduced to Obedience. All the Mental Ble Skirknishes, Bartels, Sieges, and other extra lary Transactions, fince the Grand Revolutions of the Reign of K. William and Q. Mary, with the Reign of

2. The Perfection of Military Discipline, after newest Method; as Practiced in England a land, &c. Or, The industrious Soldier's 6 Treasury of Knowledge in the Art of making Containing, Instructions for the Exercising Pike and Musket in all their Postures, with Signs of the Drum, by its beating the several of War; the Exercise of Granadiers, Hose Dragoons: The Explanation of the Words of



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BERNARD ALWYN JAY M.A. F.L.S THE

Garden of Love,

ROYAL FLOWER

FIDELTTY

A Pleater

HISTORY

Written Originally

By Mr. John Reynolds; Author of God's Revenge against Murther.

Now much Amplified by feveral Hands.

The Fourth Edition, with Amendments and Alterations.

LONDON

Printed for Nicholas Baddington at the Golden Ball in Duck-lane, and John Back-at the Black Boy on London-

Licensed,

March the 16th. 169\frac{1}{2}.



Rob. Midgley.

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THE

EPISTLE TO THE

READE

Courteous Reader,

ley.

You are here presented with the Garden of Love, and Royal Flower of Fidelity; a Theme always in Regard by Cupid's Admirers, and never Disestermed by Heroick Spirits; where Vertue like a Skilfull Pilot, Steers Products The Concluse of Ingenious Philosophica, apair whole Science Brows Discretion has Triamphone there their Opinion, That there was Love quivolent to that which is built to the first which is built and Love of Vertue; and Devine Experience and Framples daily Demonstrate to us

The Epistle to the Reader.

That Desires which exceeds Honours Limits, are always in the Prime of their Hopes, meritoriously Crost by some prejudicial Missortune: Whereas, on the contrary, Love Grounded on a Pious Determination, doth not only most flourishingly live in Fortunate Properity, but likewise dieth in most Blissfull

assured Felicity.

The Deity at all Times, abborreth a Difloyal Heart, and with the Events of Contentation, Crowneth that Love whose Effects tend to Unfeigned Fidelity: The Rage of Love's Passions are of that Magnitude, that in a manner, all esteem Venus powerfull: For first, she as an Indulgent Mother Predestinateth, and Cupid, as her Obedient Son, friketh whom she Commands. By Nature, all Men are Compounded of one Essential Substance, yet being produced under various Planets, Love, with her Intricate Authority, doth Exercise her Cruelty more over some, than others; for Beauty bath Such Power, and ber Power such Vertue, that seldom any Mortal escapes of being sometimes Scorch'd with the ardent Flame of ber Tyrannical Prosecution as well Potentates, as Impotents, fight under the Banner of Beauty; and Cupid, the Paphian Archer, being Blind, as soon strikes Robes,

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The Epistle to the Reader.

as Rags: Art can never wear out the Impression which Nature hath Imprinted, nor Dignities ever avoid that which Divinity ses-

teth down for a Period.

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Robes.

All Men are Subjects to the God of Love; therefore no Marvel if powerfulk Amours so fieze the Hearts of Princes, that they build their External Felicity, upon the Faubraces of their Sacred Admirers, and lay their Foundation of Hope and Happiness, in being Enrolled a Servant in their Saint-like Momories. Juvenile Fancies, very often shoot at Rovers; yet being once in the Field of Love, Vanquished by the Prospect of some Dans Beauty, they so render themselves Come to the Circe's Enchantment of partial plections, that they will not only be their Constancy, for the obtaining of Hearts Desire, but also lay their De Stake, and their Fidelities for the Eff of their Breafts Satisfaction : As the 30 of this History will make manifest.

This Flower is never out of Seafon. Winter, nor Summer, and bath the Fortue in it, being Distilled into Makkent, it is a Perfect Antidote against Manchery. The Story it self was Penn'd above sory Teats since, by the Author of that Encellent Piece, Entituled

The Epistle to the Reader.

Entituled, God's Revenge against the Crying and Execrable Sin of wilfull, and premeditated Murther. It hath had so good a Reception by many, that it hath undergone Three Impressions, which being all withered, I have bloomed a Fourth, though much Altered, Amended, and Modelled, to the Humour of the Age, and will, I make no Question, render Satisfaction to the Reader.

S. N.

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AND

ROYAL FLOWER

OF

FIDELITY.

N the thrice renowned Island of Cycilia (which being fituated in the Center of the Mediterranean States is most gallantly embellished with the Treasure of Ceres and Flora) before ever the Pride of tyrannizing Spain inside in B

commented Love, and

those Quarters, there sometimes reigned a vertuous and valorous King, named Druyno; whose Skill in Martial Affairs, and Knowledge in industrious Sciences, did no less daunt the Courage of his profess'd Enemies abroad, than with Content satisfie the Expectations of his Loyal Subjects at home.

Having a long time lived with this beautiful Queen Gratiana, without Issue, being Daughter to Polydore, King of Barbaria had at last in his declining Years, when Reason would have induced Men to believe that his hoary Hairs betokened an approaching Death, a gallant Son, to the no little Joy of his aged Father, and no less rejoycing of his Loyal Subjects; who in Congratulation of the Nativity of their young Prince, fo magmiscently folemnized his Birth with fuch Heroical Triumphs, that all Forreigners being Spectators of their voluntary Grandeur, might justly conclude them to be ravilled in an Extalle of Contentation.

The Prince being to be Baptized with fuch Magnificence as was agreeable to his Royal Extraction, was by his Royal Extraction and Mother named Thalmeno;

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and being nurs'd with Care, and difciplined in Martial Exercises, he was at the Age of seven years grown so great a Proficient in the School of Bellow, that all the Astrologers at that time did perfectly prognosticate, that his Princely Person would at the Age of Reason, undoubtedly merit to be triumphantly Crown'd with the Laureat Garland of O-

lympian Fame.

Beautiful he was of Complexion, more exquisitely resembling Admis than Paris:

exquifitely resembling Adonis than Patis: Courteous he was of Demeanour; for his Benignity surpassed the Affability of

Alexander; and exceeding discreet he was of Capacity, for from his eloquent

Tongue dropt the inchanting Phrafes of admired Demost benes. So that as

Nature had surpassed her Skill, in frame

fuch ing him outwardly most excellent; Art gners likewise had bestewed her chiefest Curi-Gran- osity in embellishing his Mind with the

Franofity in embellishing his Mind with the
to be Prime of ingenious Industry. Palles, if
on. she had heard this Report, would have

with prais'd his Perfections: June, It has be to had view'd his Perfon, would have for

Royal Taken her Jupiter; and the Syrepor themeno; selves, had they fixed their Eyes upon and B 2

his Features, would have withdrawn their Melody from timorous Ulysses, and tun'd the Harmony of their Voices to invest only Thalmeno their Favourite.

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He in the bloomy Spring-time of his tender Juvenility demonstrated fo many vertuous Actions of his Princely Forwardness, that the King, his Royal Father, rendred millions of Thanks to the Sacred Jebovab, for bleffing him with fo Iweet a Son; and his joyful Cicilians yielded devout Gratulations to Goddess Fortune, for affording them fo gallant an Heir to their flourishing Empire. Which heroical young Prince, being the Map of Modesty, the Patron of Piety, and the Flower of Magnanimity, had no fooner heard Time found the Fifteenth Year of his Age, but fixed his Mind upon renowned Travel, and did upon the Rock of his valorous Refolutions, fo conftantly determine to experiment what the Event of his Princely Fortunes might produce, that Youthful, yet Majestical Defires still kindling within the Ember of his heroical Affection, did at last a flame to the absolute Fire of desperat Determination, that, come Life or Death Thalmen

Thalmeno resolved, and in resolving, vower ın'd vest f his nany

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ed to withstand the Blasts of Boreas, and pass the Surges of Neptune, the better to adorn the Store house of his Royal Fancy with the strange accidental Sights of fome foreign Novelties.

But Millions of Doubts began to incumber his aspiring Imaginations; for first, considering, that to depart without Leave, were to bereave his Father of his only Comfort; and to forfake Cicilia, were to withdraw his Staff of Consolation; which Premises considering, herefolved to bury his Military Resolutions in the Grave of Oblivion: So that fmothering up the submissive Motives of Obedience in the Concave of Self-will. and pricking forward his Senfes with the dignify'd Spurs of Honour, he laftly refolved, that maugre the Effects of Fortune, or the Treachery of Time, very

foon to depart.

But this his private Resolution, was not lo fecretly concealed, but the News thereof reached the Ears of his Coulin Palmos. being only Son to Blithgora, King of Egypt who being extraordinarily well pleased with the Report, could reap no perfect

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Rest, untill he had engaged himself a Participator of his Cousin's adventurous Proceedings: Whereupon finding Thalmeno in a defolate Arbour, he very familiarly discovered to him, the News he had heard of his designed Intentions; which Thalmeno no fooner understood. but he was overjoyed, that he had found fo Princely a Partner of his future Fortunes, and to the Purity of his affectionate Entreaty, most foon condescended: So that each taking a Page, with such Necessaries as was befitting their Voyage, they very closely, in a Night, when the Moon being overshadowed with obscure Clouds, and seemed to condescend to their Resolutions, most secretly departed, directing their Course to Trapani, one of the chiefest Ports in Cicilia; where finding an Argazil ready to fet fail, bound for the Country of Arabia, they instantly imbarked themselves, rejoycing that Dame Fortune had fo foon provided for them a speedy Passage without making the King or the Court acquainted with their Pretensions. Soon were these two tender Princes missing and for their Absence, what sorrowful Mourn

Mournings, melancholly Aggravations, elf a and diffempered Dolefulness was in all rous places, but especially in the Palace Roybalal, I refer to the discreet Reader's imparamitial Censure: And in respect that our s he History depends not on their Bewailons; ings, but on the adventurous Proceedood. ings of our bloomy young Princes, I! ound will for a while leave their Sorrows to be Forcomforted by vertue of Patience, and ctioreturn again to the Common-wealth of ded: Neptune, whereon these our Princely fuch Partners were fortunately failing; who Voyappearing upon the Deck, not only reapwhen ed the Pleasure to see the Armatho furih oboufly cut through the Surges of the Seas. cend but also enjoyed the Prerogative of dedelectable Exileration, in beholding the rapafruitful Gale fairly blow the Swan-like cilia ; Sails from the tall Mast; which so long o set lasted, that in time they were fortunaterabia, ly come within knowledge of their de-, rcfired Port : Whereat the whole Compafoon ny, but especially our two young Prinffage. ces, rejoyced; they forthwith generally Court rendred many Millions of Thanks to Scott divine Fove, in that so favourably he had fling. bleffed them with wished for Success: owtu

ourn

who feeing their Argazil at an Anchor, and having invelted themselves with other Garments, did thereupon defire the Mafter to fet them ashore, which immediately was accomplished; at whose triumphant Departure the Mariners let fly fuch a thundering Peal of Ordnance, that the Report thereof rebounding from the Concavity of the clifty Shores, not only made these our valourous Martialists tremble, but also terrified Bellona her self. being resident in the Citadel of her Cedestial Monarchy; but the Smoak being evaporated with the Freshness of the furious Wind, our Princes instantly attained the Shore, and royally rewarding the Boatswains Gang, they betook themselves to their desperate Adventures; where through the Affrican Defarts, they folitarily fo long travelled, that at last, being destitute of Food, and not finding wherewith to suffice Nature, in respect these Parts were not inhabitted, they passionately tracing these unknown Groves, very lamentably began to exclaim upon the inhumane Difasters of their miserable Calamities; but in vain, for they espied no Food to replenish their

their hungry Appetites, unless to have fed upon unknown Roots, which were not agreeable to their Palates; but hoping e're long to harbour themselves in fome homely Cottage, where with ruffilcal Fare they might appeale their Hunger: Upon the Foundation of which Hope, advancing their Pace, they at last came to the Descent of a deep Valley, where, with a faint Courage, very penfively walking, they through a Thicket of an ancient Forrest, espied the Architecture of some domestical Mansion which to their Sorrowful Contemplation ons, produced unexpected Encourages ment; but refuming Courage to themfelves, thereunto directed their Course; where, being to the outward Gate arrived, they beheld a famous Castle, but so folitarily fituated in the Center of the Forrest, that the Wind piercing most dolefully through the Branches of the lofty Cedars, made fuch a mournful Murmur, that the Dolefulness thereof drove our two young Princes into a Fit of Effeminate Despair; but at last, Hunger fo far constrained them, they refolved to enter,; where opening the out-

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ward Gate, they passed the first Court without espying any; and entring the second, they beheld a delicious Court, most ingenicusly paved with curious Marble, which very stately was circumserenced with a sumptuous arch'd Gallery, propp'd up by Pillars of bright shining Alabaster; casting their Eyes a small distance; they espied a Lady, sweet and amiable, which under the shady Leaves of a Fig-tree, sate recreating her Sences with the sweet Sound of a well-tun'd Lute, to which she joyn'd her ravishing Voice, and harmoniously breath'd out these forrowful Verses.

Ab! gentle Sleep, thou easer of my Woes, Softly, and quickly, let my Eyes dispose Themselves to pleasing Slumbers, that I may, In Dreams possess those Joys deny'd by day: Joys, which if real, were to that degree, So great, were only fit for Gods, notime: Then since Prince Mædor does no pity take, Let me but dream, I'd never wish to wake.

The which, as foon as she had ended, repeating over divers times the Name of Mador, one might easily perceive many Chrystal

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Chrystal Tears distill down her Vermitlion Cheeks, as also hear many deep Sighs which her perplexed Heart fent forth, as Testimonials of her tormented Passions; and therewithal lifting up her Eyes towards, the Seat of her Celestial Maker, being overwhelmed with too many insupportable Sorrows, she instantly fainting to the Ground, fell into a dangerous Trance. Which tragical Objects our two Princes perceiving, hastily stept to her Affiftance, and raifing her from the flowery Bank whereon she fell, they weed fuch prefervative Means for her Recove ry, as their unskilful, though willing, Is dustry could afford them; so that time, by good Fortune the again to covered; and feeing thefe two strangers before her, the was furprized and lisving Anger feated on her brow, tittered these Words:

CEntlemen, for so your Aspects in vites me to term you? If you knew how divinely quiet I endured the deadly sumber into which I was enured. I absolutely know, or at least believe, that in Equity and Reason, you would have

have refrained from diffurbing me, and permitted me to reap the Benefit of my Confolation; but fince things past cannot be recalled, because Accidents once produced, do soon fly far, having Time's Wings, I will, on Condition you immediately depart, for this your first Offence, not esteem you guilty. I have here wholly betaken my felf to Sorrowfulness, and have long since devoted my Zeal to the Shrine of Disconfolation; my Defire is neither to fee nor be seen, but rather to lead the Pilgrimage of my Life from the fight of any: This folitary Place I have elected for my Habitation; and here, unless Death prevent my Premeditations, I resolve to wait the return of a dear Friend of mine, which inconstant Fortune many Months hath detain'd from me. I in reality hate the fight of any, and for his fake loath the Prospect of "all. Therefore, at the Request of a forrowful Lady, I befeech you delay not to depart, that according to my accustomed manner, I may fincerely, upon the Altar of his Absence, devoutly facrifice my affectionate Sighs, in token token, that till Death, in the Garden

of my Maiden Amity, the Reference of his felf, and Idea of his

fections, shall to my everlasting Com-

fort immortally flourish.

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in en The Princes with attentive Ears liftned to the Effect of her Speeches, and having both very lowly made their Obeisance, Thalmeno addressed himself to her.

Adam, If our sudden arrival have prejudiced your forrowful Devotions, or detained you from performing those Vows to him, who is happier than any of his Fellow Creatures, in being beloved by so much Vertue as dwells in you; we are ready to acknowledge our Defect in being so presumptuous, and express our Sorrows but since the Purity of our Pretence may plead for the Excuse of our Rude ness, and the Innocency of our Rude ness, and the Innocency of our Rude ness, we doubt not, but when hearing

our forrowful Relation, you will in E-

quity afford us your gracious Pardon;

and bury all our Offences in the Grave.

of Oblivion. 'To give you an Account, Madam, of our Extraction; We are both Princes, the one Heir apparent to the Crown of Egypt, and the other to the Diadem of. Cicilia, our Names Palma and Thalmeno, who in the Prime of our Minorities, refolved to travel, and fo privately embarking our felves, without Leave of: our Royal Parents, we of late arrived in . the next bordering Harbour; fince which time, as faithless and erroneous Fortune guided us, we strayed into an unknown Desart, where these three days we have dangeroufly travelled, without finding Sustenance to relieve our Hunger; so that at last, ranging the solitary Forrests, we fortunately arrived to this your Castle: Our Design, Madam, is not to incur your Indignation, but earnostly to implore your Relief, that in paying the Debt we owe to Nature, we may avoid the tyrannizing Empire of Death, which most inhumanly doth now begin to reign over us; which if your gentle Pity extends it

felf fo far, we shall continually remain

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Servants both to your Bounty and

Beauty; and till the Period of Death, hold the Term of our Lives as again

re-purchased byour Majestical Merits,

' and likewise depart when it shall please

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The Lady pondering upon thele deplorable Speeches, very foon conceived in her Breast a Motion of Relaxation, secretly inspiring her to entertain them with all agreeable Curiofity: So that taking them kindly by the hand, she conducted them to a very fumptuous Dining-room, and commanding her Virgins to furnish the Table with such as her solitary Habitation could afford; they very orderly, without any prolix. Ceremonies, fell hungerly to their Meat; till Repast being done, and the Princes satisfied; Thalmeno still burning with Defire to know the effectual Caufe of this Ladies desolate Retirement, with a Princely Grace, continued his precedent Difcourfe.

Madam,

'Madam, If the Repetition of your Misfortunes renew not your Grief, or the Display of your Sorrows increase not your Disconsolations, I should efreem it a great Happiness, might I obtain so much Fayour at your fair Hands, as to inform us why you make this De-' fart your domestical Mansion, and the Occasion, why, with numberless Sighs, you repeat the Name of Medor. In-'deed, Madam, so much Beauty and Divine Perfections should rather befit a 'Monarch's Court than a rural Habitation, and a Prince's Bed, than a Pilgrim's Cottage; but Experience teaches us, that all are subject to Fate, and none exempted from Adversity; for as foon the Prince as the Peafant, the Lady of Honour as the poorest Virgin, are, or may be cross'd with Cupid's Darts, the Sting of Sorrow, or the Tyranny of Misfortune; therefore, dear Madam, if any of these offensive ' Accidents have befallen you, with the Soveraign Salve of Patience fo mollifie your Passions, and raze out your Sor-rows, that the Residence of Aggravation may not overtop the Bloffoms of your

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your flourishing Juvenility, and so tragically bring your self to the untimely End of a desperate Martyrdom.

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Prince Thalmeno having ended his Speech, the Lady made him this Answer.

MOst vertuous Prince, I will inform you, that I have long since loved a noble Cavalier, his Name I shall forbear mentioning, by reason the Motive will renew the Birth of my accustomed Disconsolateness; yet, in respect you shall not condemn me of perverse Ingratitude, I will, if you please to attend my Arrival, go to my fet, and there constrain my trems. Pen to set forth the Secrets of his tresses Sorrows, and in essential cover the sole History of my, sayes.

Our two young Princes rejoycing at this great Favour, accepted of her kind Proffer; and so having familiarly saluted each other, the immediately departed to her Closet; but by that time an Hour

tragical Misfortunes.

was

was spent, the Lady descending the Stairs, presenting her self to their Views, delivered her self in this short Speech.

Most renowned Princes! to satisfie your earnest Demands, here take this Scroll, wherein, though rudely, yet sincerely, I have demonstrated the Cause of my Retirement, and penn'd down the Griess which in Heart I do more than forrowfully endure. My present Wealth is such, as I cannot afford you many Gifts; yet, as a Testimony of

my zealous Affection towards you, take this Provision, and small Summs of worthless Gold to supply your Necessities, when any future Occasion shall

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present. What incommodious Entertainment you have met withal in this

Castle, I pray forget with Favour, or what is wanting of Respect in me, I beseech you remit with Partiality; in

recompence whereof, I will facrifice my devout Prayers for the establishing of your Prosperity, and beseech Hea-

ven to fend you a most fortunate and

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fafe Return; in hope whereof, betaking you to your Journey, and my felf to my accustomed Cell of Solitariness, I most dolefully, in all Honour, take my forrowful Leave

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Thalmeno and Palmo receiving the Scroll, with Tears in their Eyes, killed her mournful Cheeks, and fo rendered her millions of Thanks for their Tonic rited courteous Entertainment, host forrowfully departed, directing their Course to a very high Mountain, whose Top having attained, they burned with defire to perufe the Scroll, that at last, casting themselves on a green Bank, embellished with the Essence of many diapred Flowers, under the Covert of a Stately Pine-tree, whose Branches were likewife apparelled with a Summers Vel ture; taking the Scroll, and opening to found these Lines contained in it.

A Dmired Princes! for your vern ous and heroick Qualities, you have requested my abrupt Musrelate to you the Occasion of this prosolitary Retirement; know valorous Princes,

Princes, I am Florina, the only Daughter of Agenor, King of Numidia; who attaining to the perfect Age, wherein Nature feems to triumph in the delectable Pleasures of Nuptial Ceremonies, I was fought for in Marriage by divers Princes, both of Africa and Europe; whereof, as the King my Father affected some for their private Wealth, so others I hated for their publick Enormities, in such fort, that to be plain, I could not esteem of any with whom I was contented to finish the remainder of this my terrestrial Pilgrimage; by vertue whereof, I some two years remained without either fixing my Eyes upon the Influence of Love, or ever devoting my Breast to the Shrine of Affecti-But at last, Cupid storming at my Liberty, and Venus at my fingle Estate, acknowledging that there was no Life but Love, nor no Paradise but the Pleafures of Marriage, they so bent their invective Ambition against my Innocency, that at last, by the Means of Fortune, which had likewise intruded her self in the Union of their Sympathy, they unexpectedly, to my Father Court

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Court, fent a lovely young Prince, named Medor, being Son and Heir to hter at-Orlando King of Biafara, which Prince Nabeing penetrated with the flying Reable port of my worthless Person, came to was Numidia, to protest himself my Ser-Prinvant; upon whose beautiful Aspect I nereno fooner fix'd my Eyes, but I immeected diately felt the Flames of Fancy sparkle 0 0within my tormented Brest. ormiother fide, Prince Medor fo often frein, I quented our Royal Palace, that at laff. om I if his Protestations were unfeigned, he der of reposed his Bliss in my Beauty, and v verreaped his chiefest Pleasure in enjoying mainmy defired Presence: So that Time did. upon by reason of many amorous Glances, so devofirmly unite our Affections with a comffectibin'd Ratification, that in few days I at my became Mistriss of his Thoughts, and Estate, he Master of my Imaginations. Life But now despiteful Destiny began to Pleadisplay part of his Infidelity, for the News of this our late Familiarity being their Innonoised throughout the Court, did at lake

arrive to the King, my Father's Ears, who raging at this unexpected Event, by reason he bore Malice to Orlando, Prince

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Court

Prince Medor's Pather, resolved, not only to nip the Blossoms of this our tender Affections in the April of their Minority, but also to blast the Buds of our Love in the Spring-time of their Juvenisity; in pursuance whereof, sending for Prince Medor before him, so check'd, him up with thundring Threats, and frown'd at him with invective Speeches, that in short, though Prince Medor began with a pithy Oration to plead for 'himself, and in his Desence to descant upon his unmerited Cruelty; he not only commanded him to Silence, but also charged him to depart the Territo-

ries of his Kingdom.

Ah infortunate Sentence for so sweet a Prince! and most infortunate, because being constrained to depart, he left me desolate in the stormy Surges of Perplexity! Then after the King my Father, had bereaved me of this my Princely Lover, within whose Breast I reposed my Happiness, being not appealed with this Inhumanity, but still severely de-

termining to invest me with the Recognizance of his Wrath, he so cruelly u-

fed me, and so unnaturally restrained

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my Liberty, that I could not one Minute reap Repose of my Imaginations,

but continually lived in a most tormented Calamity; in respect whereof, sacri-

ficing my Orations upon the Altar of

Frince Medor's Absence, and devolving

my Contemplations to the beautiful Idea of his Excellencies, accounting

Courtly Joys vain glorious Trifies, and

a Princely Life a splendent Misery; in

a Cymmerian Night, which feemed to allow of my Resolutions, I departed the

Court, and betook my felf to the Elfa-

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my

ftablishing of so forrowful a Life: So at alast, Fortune resolving to affish me in my

'Milery, very happily made me retire

hither; which folitary Caffle doth fo

correspond with my mournful Fancy.

that for the ardent Affection which I

bear Prince Medor, I firmly refolve, either here to attend his expected Arrival,

or else to finish my Days in manifestati-

on of my Fidelity. Therefore, Dear

Princes, attribute my Disobedience to my Parents a favourable Censure, and

I refolve, that what my Pen prescribeth,

my Capacity shall perform; that is, immortally to remain faithful to Prince

Medor,

Medor, or everlastingly unfriendly to my felf.

Which Scroll they had no fooner perused, but pitying the Estate of the solitary Lady, they instantly vowed to range the Confines of Africa, in re-fearching Prince Medor, that by their friendly Diligence, Florina from her deplorable Condition might be delivered: by vertue of which infus'd Resolution, raising themselves from the verdant Grass, they at last, with familiar Amity, profecuted their Journey in fuch a pleafant manner, that Phæbus adorning the Day with his radient Beams, they traverling many lofty Mountains, and pleasant Valleys; at last, towards the Approach of drowsie Vesper, arrived to a filver Fountain o'er vail'd with a Canopy of a sprouting Cypress, who frizling his curled Locks, took this Crystal Spring to be his reflective Mir. rour, whereon, with Narcissus, delighting in reigho gaze, he continually trimmed himself i his verdant Jollity. Many Angelica Nymphs they likewife faw circums rencing this Fountain in a Dance, wh refembling Daphne, had their splendar

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hair dallying with the Nectar-Breath of amiable Zephyrus, being all apparell'd in Crimfon Robes, embroider'd with Lillies and Couslips; who no sooner beheld our two Cavaliers approaching, but thinking that the Shepherds and Satyrs had fent them as Spys, thereby to entrap them in some treacherous Ambuscado, they forthe with flew through the Thickets, far swifter than ever did Atalanta, when she ran with Hippomanes: Our Princes feeing this amorous Troop fled, were exceeding forrowfull that their Arrival hindred their Pastimes, so that saluting them with a shrill Hollah, and perceiving none returned, they instantly fate them down upon the brim of the Fountain; where gathering many Daffadillies and other Flowers, they dipping them in the orient Water, therewith beforinkled their Faces to refresh their Spirits; so long, till reflecting took their fight upon the Excellency of the Mir reigbouring Pasture, they at last espyed a ngt rerdant Tent, on whole lofty Turret elf i now-white Enfign flourish'd in the Air hereat admiring, because they could no at conjecture what this delightfull Object... wh endar mified, they then both very joyfull dited their Course thither; which no

Sooner they approached, but they perceived it to be an Eglantine Bower, bespread with Colombines and Damask-Roles. so that burning with defire to survey every part of it, they at last resolutely entred; where a fnowy Beagle, with Argus Eyes, vigilantly faluted them with his shrill barking Note; which arowsing a Nymph his Mistress from her Repose, at this unexpected Alarm began to tear through the Bower.

But Venus and Diana, having metamorphos'd their fore-past Malice to a future Sympathy, so ordain'd, that her Amber Locks should be entangled in the Eglantine Briars; whereat our Princes taking hold of her loofe Garments, did, notwithstanding her Force, compell her to flay; but the Nymph thinking them to be Apollo and Jove, who had descended from Heavento ravish her Virginity on Errth, bitterly cryed out, and milerably tore the Treffes of her Hair in a rage: the which our Princes perceiving, with fair exhortive Speeches began to appeale her Aggravation, requesting her only to conduct them to some adjoining Cottage, where for that night they might affiredly reft in some peacefull Tranquillity. Whereat this jol-

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ly Nymph raising her self from the Earth, and returning them Millions of Thanks, bedecking her Lilly Countenance with a Cherry Complexion, very freely conducted them through the Woods and Forrests, where many Troops of light-footed Satyrs ran before, as triumphant Heralds to proclaim them Passage; so long, till radiant Titan flying the Zenith of our Horis zon to alight the obscure Antipodes, she at last brought us to a sumptuous Palace, whose Pyramids and Towers loftily prefemed to elevate their Tops in the Azure Skies; the glorious Sight whereof, made them to conjecture it to be that admired Palace of Felicia, so much dignified the Pens of civil and profane Poers 1 18 the Walls were of gliffering Alan the Gates of pure Chrystal, the parter of black Jet, intermix'd with azmid and ble, the Battlements of refined Gold, the Arches of flately Porphyre, the Windows of transparent Diamonds, befer with buncles and Saphires, and the Roof of Vermillion Coral, wrought Checkerwife, with orient Guards of Silver: the interior Lineaments owed nothing in correspondence to the outward Edifice; for the Portals and Galleries were of white Ivory,

the Bedsteads of clarent Amber, the Coverlids and Curtains of green Damask, imbossed with Emeralds and Chrysolites, and the Tapestry of Crimson Velvet em-broidered with Amethysts and Pearl: in the spacious Court and delicious Bowers which Flora had adorned with the Treafures of her painted Drapery, were likewife many curious Fountains, fome conveyed thither by the instinct of Nature, and others they erected by the ingenuity of Art. There you might have seen Diana errais'd aloft upon a stately Pillar, with a Bow in one hand, and a Banner, wherein was charactered Chastity in the other; from whose Alablaster Paps the Water fweetly distilling, was by her Nymphs in Chrystal Vessels received, and so artificially conveyed to the Fountains Center : And also another, where Pallas, Minerva, and Juno, do from their beauteous Breafts rain Veins of Water upon the Faces of Dapline and Philomela; the which entring their Coral Lips, do distill to the Concavity of their Chrystaline Paps; from whence with a ftern Countenance they furiously spout it in the Eyes of inhumane Jupiter; and lustfull Tereus: also upon the Borders of these Fountains are growing many

many fruitfull Fig Trees, whereon artifificially range divers harmonious Birds whose celestial Musick, according with the Waters murmur, doth yield forth many ravishing Tunes of Angelical Melody; so that there wanted no Ornaments to make this fumptuous Palace a Terrestrial Paradice: it was impaled with lofty Cedars, fenced Draw-bridges, and impregnable Bulwarks, as also circumferenced with curious Rivers, within whose filver Streams many fnowy Swans most pleafantly imbathed themselves; so that our two Princes with their Nymph, being arrived to this dignified Palace, were forthwith met. by an ancient Matron, who feeming to be the Lady thereof, very kindly bad them Welcome : Het, Habre was of a Sable Hue, having her howy Hair hanging down her Face, her Beauty feem'd to be nipt by Age; yet in the Lineaments of Complexion lay furrowed the Anatomy of an indifferent Countenance: the Arches of her forrowfull Eyes were over-veil'd with a crimfon Dye, from out whose Conduits it appear'd many brinish Tears had had their Issue; which defolate Lady, after having had some Conference with these our unknown Princes. and

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and perceiving how the Zeal of their youthfull Resolutions were devoted to Travel, she with a faint Voice delivered her self.

Ourteous Friends, for such I hope 'you are; fear not to enter this Palace, but advance with Freedom; for your Eyes shall be presented with such delightfull Objects as shall both please your Thoughts, and solace your Contemplations.

Whereat she abruptly broke off, and fo as fast as she could, fled to the Forrests.
Our Princes seeing the sudden Departure of this antient Lady, exceedingly admired what this unlooked-for Novelry meant; but at last arming their Resolutions with Courage, as also seeing the sable Night begin to o'ervail the Element with Obscuricy, taking leave of their Nymph, they boldly entred; where no sooner they had past the outward Gate, but they were forthwith met by two glorious Virgins, who faluting them with a fmiling Countenance, arm in arm most lovingly conducted them to a stately Theatre, where they beheld many amorous Ladies and Cava-

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ving contracted his Influence with the inflinct of Celestial Deity, they were in the depth of their Nocturnal Sleep aroufed by a hideous Clamour, which rattled in the Palace with fuch a thundring noise, as if the Fabricks, nay Foundation thereof were subject to a sudden Revolution; grievous Groans were plenty, crys were common, and all diverted to fuch a telmpestuous confused Chaos, as if the Milas of the World had in the vivacity of his Fury fummoned the Confines of the Earth to the dreadfull day of Judgment: Whereat our two young Princes, as having their obtuse Senses repleated with Fear, and their Heroical Fortitude dannted with Pufillanimity, instantly left their Beds, as if they had been transcended to the infernal Concavity of obscure where ron; thinking that their Glass of Life was already run, and that inhumane Thanatos had now taken his tyrannical Darts in's hand to finish the period of terrestrial fatastrophies. But whilst being thus in the supposed way to Destruction, behold, y appeared to 'em a delectathere in ble Dwar, apparelled in Crimfon, which to evaporate their timorous Despair, with an Angelical Voice pronounced these Lines. Fly

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Fly Vice, fly Sin, fly Earthly Vanity, And with a Martial Courage Fear displace; Detract no Time, but with Celerity, (Face. Come view the Beauty of Dame Vertue's

Our Princes feeing this pretty Pigmy, and with advised deliberation pondering upon the Etymology of his Speeches, could not at first refrain from being astonished; but at last ruminating more serioully which way to elect for their Security, they both at last resolved to follow the tender Guide, thereby to free themselves from the peril of this Stratagem: Upon which Resolution arming their Courage with Magnanimity, they, as having Pegasian Wings, flew through the Courts, directing their pace to a lofty. Mountain, from whence they espied this glorious Palace to be fuddenly swallowed up in the Earth's Concavity, and in fuch an admired manner; that no appearance of Foundation remained, but was utterly never been there erected: profpe-etive Accident our Princes and not at first believe, but instancy therespon furmiled that their Hyes and Imaginations

had been deluded with Invalions. The Dwarf perceiving their doubtful Perplexities, ran away from them, and to comfore their Passions, the old forlorn Lady which they first met, again presented her self to their Views; and to after having lowly saluted them, very mourn-fully uttered this Speech.

Y Sons, Jays she, my Namois Vo-IVI tue, who of my own Authority have invented this Tragedy for your Ade vantage; the glorious Mansion which you have feen defroyed, was the Pallace of Folly, wherein only remained the Imps of luxurious luiguity; who pampering up inffulli Cytheren, were always Perfecutors of chaft Diang in the they ever disdance; and document imothered my Temples with the Contagious Incest of Debauches amongst which diabolical Regiment was familiar, Swearing no Sin, Profit & Barl,
Luft a Lord, Ambirion a Sainty Ship From
chery a Goddels; but now my Sons their
immoderate Peide is part, their which aft
Defires extennated, their Samhiert Caths drowned, their applied Ambition evaporated, their graceless Treachery abo-

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The Garden of Love, and

fished, nay and all their obscene Actions with themselves, utterly destroyed, and furiously sent to the infernal Pit of everlasting Perdition; therefore beware by their subtle Devices, and let the Mirror of their Missortunes serve as an instance to impale you within the Circumserence of Piety; and to the end, that being absent, you may still ponder and premeditate upon my Exhortations; here take this Paper, and observe such Divine Counsel as I have therein prescribed.

Which having faid, she in the twinking of an Eye elevated her self in the Air, and so a Cloud o'er-vailing her in the Cincture of his Embracements, she immediately vanished.

Our Princes aftonished hereat, took up the Paper, and opening it, found these Si

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Rules contained in it.

Uild the Foundation of thy Faith
Depon Purity and Piety, that thy
Real be not eclipfed with the Contagion
of Asolatry, but rather perfumed with the
incention of Sincerity.

Let devout Prayers be a Mediatrix

between Heaven and thy felf; for it is behild

the most assured step to obtain Felicity.

3. Conceal thy Secrets in the Closet of thy Breast, least rashly displaying them to others, thou produce the prejudice of thine own Tranquillity.

4. Fly Ambition, as the Poylon of the Sense; and detell Envy, as the Canker of

thy Contemplations.

der Repentance; but loath a lascivious Courtezan, as the Scourge of Iniquity.

6. In thy Actions be faithfull; left being blemithed with Reproach thou impair

thy Reputation.

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7. Honour thy Prince as God's Anointed; and if occasion present, live and dye for thy Country.

8. Detest Vain-glory, as the Venem of Sin, and abolish Superstition as the Cloak

of Ungodliness.:

Which having read, and knowing the facred Influence thereof tended to the fablishing of their Celestial Tranquillity, they so imprinted it in their Memories, as it suturely should serve for a senced Circumference, to retain them within the Confines of Piety; so as triumphing that Fortune had press gred them with so sacred

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an Instance, they very joyfully departed. But wan Aurora, the Daughter of Thetis, had no fooner skipp'd from the Bowers of Neprune, and faluted the Excellency of transplendant Phabus, but our Princes afresh prepared themselves for their Journey: when early in the purpled Morn, when radiant Titan begin to give his Welcome to the verdant Mountains; the Satyrs, Fawns and Nymphs, danced thro' the Forrests, and dolefull Philomela warb-led forth her Tragedy; they were by a fost Wind, which cansed the tender leaves. to quaver, made acquainted with the pleafant Sound of a ravilhed Cornet; the delicious tripple Eccho whereof, redoubling through the thickness of a curled Grove there next adjoining, gave fuch a gracefull Harmony to the aforesaid Melody, that our Princes were perforce constrained to find out the faid unknown excellent Orpleus, to the end he might for a while reoreate their distempered Senses, with the rare exquisiteness of his praise-worthy Art: And fo directing their Courses by their attentive Ears, they at last arrived to the Prospect of a fair Valley, in the midst thereof ran most leisurely a silver Stream, whose Banks in equal distance were befer with

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with fruitfull Lemon-Trees; on the Branches whereof, they might afar off espy the yellow Citrons naturally growing which delightfull pleasant Prospect so well contented their youthfull Imaginations, that immediately they bent their Course directly to the aforefaid Arboury; where entring, they espied this famous Musician, a beautifull young Boy, apparelled in white, and crowned with a Lawrel-Garland, and fet upon a flowery Bank, close by the River's side, unto whose Melody most attentively list ning; they at last in a fragrant Bower of Eglantine, espied an aged Father, which as it feemed by the Furrows of his Face, had in his tender years endured many diftaftfull Calamities; his Habit was of black Sables, which reaching not fo low as his Knees, was about his Walt begirt with a Willow Striple; his Visage was pale and wan, and his snowy Beard descended almost to his sorrowfull middle; in his hand he held a Brazeil Staff, which was the feeble Supporter of his withered Age; and before him, on a Table of Swanlike Alablaster lay open Burton's Anatomy of Melancholly, gilded and extraordinary beautifull, whereon in reading he folitarily busied the Chimera of his tormented Brain;

quillity.

Brain; which Profpect as foon as our Princes espied, being transported with desire to know the Cause of his disconsolate Retirement, they boldly entred; where interrupting him from his earnest Study. Prince Palmo addressed himself to him as followeth.

MOst Venerable Father, if our audacious Arrival have disturbed your Study, or our Presence your Patience; webeleech you to pardon the first, though a rash Attempt; and excuse the Second, as being an unwilling Enterprize: Travellers ears are, you know, Lovers of Novelties, and are as earnest in fatisfying their Curiofity, as the Antipodes is of the Sun's Brightness; therefore Reverend Sir, we earnestly beseech you to relate to us the Occasion of this solitary Retirement, and the Motive which ' induced you to embrace this auftere Life; and also to afford us so much favour, as we may under the support of your Goodness, erect our Residence, for a while; and fo avoiding the scandalous imputati-

on of Vagabonds, betake our Resoluti-

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ing she could by no means obtain a fight of me, in bitter anguish, bidding the World, but most chiefly me, Farewel! most dolefully yielded Nature her due; in remembrance of whom, at the end of this Grove, in a fragrant Valley, I have, as Duty and Love prompted me, erected a Tomb, whereunto till the period of my days, I have vowed daily to offer her, not only my devout Oranons, that I may quickly follow her, but also my throbbing Sighs, as repentant Witnesses of my Calamity: therefore Gentlemen, if you please to afford so much time to walk thither, your Eye may be Spectators of that which I have with grief and aggravation discovered to you; and after give you fuch Instructions in your Travels, that doubtless, if the Celeftial Influence cross not your Fortunes, you shall find them veryprofitable to you, and in your Adventures no way prejudicial

The two Princes remrning him Thanks for his proffered Civilities, very willingly whis demand, foon condescended, and walking through Ranks of lofty Cedars, thich with their verdant Branches beautified

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fied the adjoining filver stream, they at last arrived to a facred Chapel, which with Alablaster Walls circumferenc'd that glo-Wh rious Tomb; where entring, they espy'd earlie it so adorned with munisicent curious estimated with munisicent curious estimates and with the view thereof drave and with the view thereof drawe and with the view thereof drave and with the view thereof drawe and with the view thereof drawe are the view the view thereof drawe are the view them speedily to approach near to it, where pose they beheld the Body of it to be of D overy white Ivory, whose Cover being of radi Eyes ent Jet, and upon it the Picture of Excel conti lina in crimfon Colours, most ingeniously pourtraicted, and under her Feet, in Cha. racters of Gold, enamell'd with Azure I lo this Epitaph. muc

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Within this Ivory do doth lye The Phanix of pare Modesty, Sweet Excelline! whose Beauty rare With Helen's Fame may well compare Nay, Helen's Fame surpassing sure, Which did the Grecians Love procure; Being in Jove's Imperial fight A Nymph excelling Juno bright: Cut off by fatal Sifters Three, In Confluence of Love's plaudite. Therefore if any pass by this way, And with penitential Tears do pray, That she may in the Elizian Plain Until Eternity remain,

Royal Flower of Fidelity.

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Still Crown'd with Hearts delicious Joy, And freed from-rage of dire annoy.

with glo-Which Epitaph they having no looner py'dead; as also reviewing the Tomb and her rious Effigies, they very forrowfully departed to rave find out the ancient Mourner, who purthere posely attending their coming, took them overby the hand, the Tears appearing in his radi Eyes, with some faltering in his Speech, he Excel continued his Discourse.

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Cha! 'Ah Gentlemen! my Grief is fuch, that zure I loath my Life; and were it not too much offensive to my Soul, I could willingly be instrumental to my own untimely Martyrdom, but alas! I know that that would be a Sacrifice too abomihable in the fight of Heaven; which is the only Rein that withdraws me from executing my Resolutions: For why, though I live, I live discontented, and by my Death my Grief would enjoy a period. Should I, the most milerable of all Mankind, be the occasion of formuch Vertue's Destruction? or, by my means hould so noble a Virgin be deprived of future Felicity; no, Delmon; referve

to live, but dye in memory of her

Martyrdôm; for fo shall thy Aggravations end, and thy everlafting Joys commence.

Our two Princes, feeing him launch out fo far in the diversity of amorous Sorrow, thought it-requisite to recall him from his passionate Sadness; and interpupting him, Thalmeno began as followeth.

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Enerable Sir, I should think the effects of amorous Contemplation should be now through Age, purge from your Memory, and the remem brance of past Pleasures dryed up in Oh 'livion; for it is not for you, which ar ready to falute the Grave, to facrific Sighs to Cupid; but rather for juveni blood to fight under the Banner of Bea ty. Remember therefore with you felf, that Venus by Apelles's Boy was pai ted with fresh Colours, and not with withered Visage; and though Vulcar the Pr fered to the Shrine of Jum, yet he at 'acknowledged his Fault, and was for 'Simplicity laugh'd at by Jupiter: The fore Sir, confider now with your that that fair Excellence whom you red, is now extinct, and cannot by

Royal Flower of Fidelity. mortal means be again revived; in reatifpect whereof, pray dry up those Tears, mand forget any more to devote your Oraisons to the Image of Cytherea: thus fighting against Concupiscence, your Out Actions may approve you to be unfpot-Ow, ted for the Celestial Regions, and while n his tracing on this Earthly Vale of Misery, him, to observe a blissfull gracefulness of aged flaidness. he ef-Delmon perceiving he was answered ation fomewhat roundly, instantly wept afresh, urge because their exhortive Speeches touch'd mem him to the quick: But at last comforting n Ob his forrowfull Muse with patience, he ch an with his Tears requested them to enter his crific Cell, and to accept of fuch homely Fare uveni shis Povertycould afford, whereunto they f Bear willingly agreed; and fo deluding the time h you with a familiar Conference, they a long as par time folaced themselves in amorous Pratt With te; till at last Repast being ended, and ulcan the Princes ready to depart, Delmon, with ne at smuch Freedom as his Passion could peras for bit, at their Farewell gave them there in-Th ructions. ZUO you Heroick Gentlemen! Leing your Reot by

folutions

The Garden of Love, and folutions are bent to Travel, I shall inform you, that some Leagues from hence in the Kingdom of Zanfara, reigns the famous Brilion, whose Vertue doth no e less rejoice his Subjects, than his Valour doth daunthis Enemies; rewarding each according to his Merits, and retaining no Honour from these which demonftrate their Actions to be absolute Magnanimous; fo that for Wildom, he may well be esteemed a Solomon; for Majefty, a Cæsar; for Prowess, a Scipio; and for Benignity, an Alexander : His Court may also be termed the Rendevouze of the Flower of Chivalry; for there are always resident innumerable of Cavaliers; which as they esteem Discretion a chief Point of Valour, fo they are no ways backward to adventure their Lives for the establishing of their Fame; their Se nators likewise are both grave, politick and provident; which from the Sinceri ty of their Contemplations, account · Ambition a heinous Crime, and Treachery a deadly Sin. The Paftors also are both zealous and venturous, admonishing their Flocks, not like Baal's Priests, in place their Religion upon diabolical Ide latry, but to ground their Zeal upon the Celesti

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Celestial Temple, whose Foundation and Pavement, is Faith and Purity; whose Doors and Arches, Devotion and Amity; whose Pillars and Windows, Piety and Sincerity; whose Galleries and Towers are Glorification and Humility: their Ladies and Damfels are likewise both gracious and fair, and generally fo chafte, as if Diana and Nature had adorned them with the Pride of their Excellency; being of Gesture, modest; of Capacity, quick, of Quality, kind; and of Behaviour, courteous. 'Therefore Gentlemen, if you direct 'your Course thither, you shall generally ' fee each live by the Fertileness of his own Land; each reap the Fruit of his own Vine, and Content fit finiling in every Corner. There may you behold the fragrant Fields adorned with their verdant Vestures, the lofty Trees with their gay. Garments, and the delicious Arbours ccount with their diaper'd Treasure of Flora; as Trea alfo, the Mountainso'er-veil'd with Snowalso are white Flocks, their Meadows with the nishing Riches of Ceres, and their Valleys with efts, to Daffadils and prime Flowers. In their al Ido Parks you may see Regiments of Pallow on tha

Deer running untaken; and in their For-

rests you may behold Troops of Nymphs trace unravished; and to be brief, on every Bush harmonious Birds warbling forth their Melody.

Thalmeno and Parma perceiving that Delmon had finished his Speech, being transported with the Report of so flourishing a Kingdom, giving him Thanks for their kind Entertainment, and for his vertuous Exhortations, very joyfully departed: where travelling a long time the feunknown Countries, they at last very fortunately arrived to the chiefest City of Zanfara, where the Court then was; and taking up their Lodging in the best Inn which the City did afford, they there some three days rested, to refresh themselves of their forepast, troublesome Travels; and after having, as was requisite, given Almighty Fove most humble Thanks for their safe Arrival, they betook themselves to their private Parley, where Thalmeno began as followeth.

Dear Cousin! we are now in a Kingdom far from our native Country; and therefore it behooves us to settle our Pro-

seedings upon the Main of some Reference

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lution, to the end we may futurely avoid the Receipt of ensuing Missortunes, therefore understanding that the King exceedingly delighteth in Heroical Vertues, it were not in my Opinion unsit to betake our selves under the Umbrage of his Service, where cherishing our valourous Magnanimity, we may produce the Demonstrations of dignissed Princely Atchievements, whose effectual Apparations in the Eyes of all Spectators may justly purchase us the Title of gallant Admiration.

Prince Palmo hearing Thalmono atter this Resolution, very instantly returned him this Answer.

Most affectionate Cousin! I agree to what you are pleased to determine; therefore let us set apart all Delays, and prosser our selves to the King's Service; this day I understand he hunts in a Forrest near adjoyning the Court; where if you please, we may present him with a submissive Supplication, thereby to intrude our selves within his Princely Service; but let our Names be obscured understhe Cloud of Secrecy; so that Thal-

meno may be termed Thalmo; and my Name of Palmo changed to Plivio; justifying our felves to be Knights of Arabia.

This pleasant Invention was well liked of by Thalmeno; fo folacing their Fancy, they forthwith indicted this Supplication, which by a young Knight, they fent to the King's Majesty, the Tenor whereof followeth.

To the most puissant, famous and flourishing Prince Brilion, King of Zanfara.

Royal Sir.

Our magnanimous Fame, by the 'Herald of Report, have arrived to many Cavalier's Understanding, in such a Degree, that they not only admire at your Princely Valour, but likewise wonder at your vertuous Animosity; so as their Thoughts burning with defire to be made Possessors of your gracious Pre-sence, and their Resolutions slaming with applause to be Spectators of your Heroi cal Actions, they have upon the Altar of

Fame long fince devoted their Refold tions to flirect their Course to your Coun

try; amongst whom, we Thalmo an

Plivio, two Knights of Arabia, our Cad my pacities being penetrated with the Re-; justiport of your Affability, have undertaken. Arabia. this Journey, to be made Spectators of your renowned Personage; so that being l liked arrived to your flourishing Palace, we ancy, most humbly beseech you to accept usination, to your dignified Service; affuring you, ent to that our Valour and Fidelity shall be such. hereof as shall well testifie our Resolutions to take their Offspring from Magnanimity: fo imploring your Majesty to admit us. eri(hing into your Royal Service, and to honour us with that Title to be invested your Servants, we in all humility, proftrating

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remain,
Your Majesties most devoted Vallels,

Thalmo and Photo.

This Supplication was no fooner prefented to the King, but forthwith he commanded the two foreign Knights to be admitted to his presence, where faluring them in such a manner equivolent to his Royalty, he very courteously accepted of their voluntary Service; which samous acceptance adding applausible Hope to our D. Princes

our Lives to your gracious Command

Princes Expectations, made them conje-Aure, they were now mounting the Steps of Honour: But to conclude; their valorous Actions, vertuous Demeanour, gallant Comportment, heroical Courteoufness, and Princely Gravity, did so conquer the Affections not only of the King, but of the Nobility and Gentry likewife; that in a manner all the Island of Cicilia esteemed them worthy the Prize of Olympian Victory; which by often Demonstrations of their Gallantry, did so gain the King's Favour, that he preferred them both and appointed Thalmeno to attend on the Princess Athelia his Daughter; and established Plivio to be Governour of Ithica Castle, wherein the fair Princess Mersilva, Daughter unto Samor, King of Bobemia, was retained Prisoner: But leaving Phvio and the Princess Mersilva, to Fortune's Protection, we will for a while discourse of Thalmo and the fair Athelia.

In a pleasant Morn, before the Pearled Dew was exhal'd by the shining Rays of Golden Phabus, when the fragrant Flowers were displaying the pride of their Beauty, and the melodious Birds on the swelling Bushes straining forth their Melody, at chanced that Thalmo, being captivated with

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as thou had ravine C ly wit to eaf

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The Princess told him, his talk disturbed her Thoughts, and his speeches her Senses; and so in a disdainful manner, the flew from him: When directing her pace to the Court, we will for a while there leave her, and a little discourse of Thalmo's Passions: Who seeing the Prince cess so suddainly departed, thereat immediatelystormed, changing his pleasant Counter nance to a pale Complection; and repenting the time that ever the Queen his Mother, produced him into this miferable World: continually crying out upon cruel destiny, and very often sighing, as though his breast were overwhelmed with inforportable Calamities; fometime falling from fighs to tears, and then from tears to fighs again; fomtimes repeating the name of Atbelia, and then cloting up his Eyes, as though the Oracle of that celeffial Word had ravish'd his Senses with too many divine Cogitations: At last he very pensil ly withdrew himself to his Closer, who to ease his tormented mind, he resolve write, and fend her thefe Lines,

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I Never saw that Face till now, that could my Fancy move; I lik'd and ventur'd many a Vow, but durst not think of Love:
Till Beauty charming every Sense, an easie Conquest made;
And shew'd the vainess of Defence, when Athelia doth invade.

But oh! her colder Heart denies,
the thoughts her looks inspire;
And while in Ice that Frozen lies,
her Eyes darts only Fire;
Between Extreams I am undone,
like Plants to Northward set,
Eurnt by too violent a Sun,
on stravd for want of heat.

Which being ended, sealed up, and directed he hasted to a Lady of the Princes. Athelia's, whose Physiognomy, practical the Accomplishment of a faithful performance, and imbolden'd him to request her to deliver it to the Princes, to which she voluntarily condescended; and so finding her very solitary her Chamber, she with an humble represented her promise: The Princes first was unwilling to receive it, as not known

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Sun, with delit ing from whence it came; but unripping the Seal, she found who it was sent it; and with a Crimson Blush, commanded Levina her Woman to depart; when locking her door, she cast her self on her dainty Bed; and read the Contents before repeated, many times she perused it, and often kist it, and at last uttered to her self these Passions.

Most unfortunate Athelia! if thy Tears might affuage thy pains, or thy fighs thy Miseries; thou mightest then envy thy Tortures, and with parience bear the insupportable Burthen of thy Calamities: but alas! as the first cannot perform the one, nor the second effect the other, thou mayest esteem thy Estate the more unfortunate, and curse the hour wherein thou didft first espy that charming Face of vertuous Thalmo; Thalmo, I fay, whose valourous Actions, heroical Disposition, and comely Deportment hath fo conquer'd thy Princely Breaff that thou with the pale-fac'd Macra is Clouds of Obscurity, dost take the Sun, which is only Thalmo; remember with what fervency of affectionate Fidelity he pleaded to thee for a kind acceptance:

in-

ceptance; and call to mind the pearled Tears, dolefull Sighs, and paffionate Agonies which as Messengers of faithful Constancy, he sent to witness before thine Eyes the Miseries he endured, and bury not in Oblivion his wan Complexion, hollow Aspects, and repining Despair; which as Sollicitors, might have caused the most obdurate Heart to relent, and have produc'd a Motion of pity. But wretched Athelia! forget not the proud Repulses, sharp Answers, bitter Threats, and obstinate Denyals thou gavest his Enterprize; which when I confider, I burst with Anger, and condema my felf of imprudent Ingratitude, in rewarding his primitive Presence with Inhumanity, and croffing the Proceedings of his Hopes with unmerited Inaffability. Indeed, I must confess, relinquishing obstinate Coyness, my Passion was then magnanimous for Thalmo, although Modesty would not permit me to discover it; and now 1 do adore him, as the la cred Image to whom I pay all my Devo

though Pride at first seem'd to reign

cred Image to whom I pay all my Devo tions. Thalmo, and none but him, sha live in my remembrance, nor none by him alone can boast of such a Conquest

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my Breast, when I refus'd his Precents. I will now be as affable in acception Affection; though then pertinacious in denying his Requests, yet now as willing to agree to his Petitions, and though then refractory in not being attentive to his Desires, yet now as tractable to hearken to his Demands; but whether, Atbelia, doft thou wander? what Lunatick Folly doth possess thy Senses? or whether runs thy Wits a wandering without their Guide, Discretion? Hath an amorous Passion so soon transported thy Mind with Fancies, or lovely Toys fo instantly obscured thy Reason with Absurdity, that without regard to Modesty, thou proclaimest thy simplicity, which should the World know it, thou would'it be condemned of pevish Levity? Is the which was fo long courted, now became an Oratory Suitor? and must she plead to him for Love, who peritioned her for Affection? Ah Atbelia! but such is the Fate, and therefore contradict not that which the Gods have already decreed; latisfie thy felf with what is contingent to thee; and hereafter feek by fome faourable means-to correspond with thy efired Thalmo, so the end that his prefence

'sence may expell those Mists of Sorrow, which doth so intoxicate thy Sences,

and extinguish the Birth of ardent Flames, which doth begin to fcorch the

Substance.

Levina, her Woman, suddenly rush'd in, as being fent from the Queen her Mother, wondering she should be fo long absent. Atbelia perceiving the time had deceiv'd her, instantly 'rose up, and clearing up her Countenance the best she could, fail'd not according to her Duty with all Celerity, to hasten to the Queen, where contrary to her Expectation, she received this check.

Athelia, hath too much Freedom made his Re

you forget your felf? or is it some extraordinary Affairs which hath retain'd

you so long from my presence? was you with your Tutores, Lady Flerina, or

from whence came you?

' Madam, May it please your Majesty, (replyed the Princess) I have long since

been invited to see the Lady Fulvis

Chamber; and this morning unexpected she came for me, your Majesty being in

your Closet I was loath to disturb you

and fo I departed without taking in

leave, my Lady Flerina was then at Devoti

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Devotions, and so only Iffida my Maid at-' tended me.

This Reply foon fatisfied the Queen; so leaving Athelia in her presence, we will return to tormented Thalmo, who being as it were plundg'd in Athelia's Beauty, and almost drown'd in her Affection, as also hearing no Answer from Levina; stormed in fuch a manner, that his Familiars, who not being acquainted with his Passions, thought he would run lunatick, and dance with the Skies, or else stark mad with the Man in the Moon, to caper about the Clouds; for fuch Rage posses'd his Sences, and fuch Anger over powr'd ade his Reason, that he was even bereav'd of his Understanding; all Company he abandoned, and detested the Light, as 7npiter when he transcended in a Cloud to dazle Vulcan, thereby to enjoy Juno: His Speeches were far-fetch'd fighs, unless now and then he would breath forth the Name of Athelia; his Laughter was medimorphos'd to Tears, and no Motion could en er his Imagination, but the resemblance of Athelia; his Chamber feem'd tirefome, and his Bed uneasie; his corments might compar'd to the Tortures of Ixion, only this excepted, that he had a fairer Deity

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in Athelia, then Ixion had in Proserpina; when he waked, the Image of Athelia flood before him, whose Figure he adored, as the only solace of his Hearts Contentment; being in his Study, pensively Paffionate, he would fuddenly arise, and ask, Who was there? as if Athelia had been always knocking at the Door: From thence in an affectatious Homour, he would forthwith direct his Course towards the Fields, and there most forrowfully to the senceles Trees, decypher forth the manner of her Cruelty; then begging Pardon for fo great a Crime, he immediately fell to Singing in Praise of her; and from thence in a wavering Condition, would enter into another Humour of recording his Palfions: Amongst the rest, as I very well remember, he once rang'd into a very pleasant Forrest, and so from thence to Mountains next adjoining, and again to Valleys, as his Weakness led him; when being overwhelm'd with innumerable amorous Fancies, on the Grafs, taking out his Pen and Paper, writ these Lines.

Bright

Bright Athelia is the Saint
whom in Devotion I implore;
But she is deaf to my Complaint,
her Silence tells I must give o'er:
Is it my Zeal's not fervent Thought?
or what I ask'd, Offence has given?
No Word; but Sigh, or Tear with't brought
Juch Rhetorick, as prevails with Heaven.

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The latter then must be the Cause;

Yet how could that her Anger move;

So harmless my Petition was,

I only ask'd of her, her Love;

And now the fatal Reason's found,

the greater Pain I must endure;

Such Folly 'tis to search the Wound,

that does admit no hopes of Cure.

With Grief and Anguish I'm perplex'd,

so sad my Case on either side;

I had not liv'd, had I not ask'd:

'tis worse than Death, now I'm Dens'd,

Tell me of neither Racks nor Wheels;

'tho' sharp, they bring no lasting Pain;

Nor Torments like to that he feels,

who loves, and is not love'd again.

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Which having ended, forgetting both Pen and Paper, he resolved to range further into the unknown Forrests: But as stying Time gives a Period to all Earthly Accidents, so in roving from Place to Place, he at last arrived to a fair Cyprus Tree; where resolving to Sleep, he was no sooner down, but he arose again instantly, determining to depart, but desirous of writing a few more Lines, he busily search'd for his Pen and Paper; but not finding it, drew out his Sword, and with the point of it, upon the Bark of a Tree, Carved these Lines.

Go soft Desires, Love's gentle Progeny, and on the Heart of fair Athelia sieze: Then quickly back return again to me, since that's the Cure of my Diseases But if you miss her Breast whom I adore, Then take your slight, and visit me no more.

Which having ended, he very often kist it, as if there remained some figur'd resemblance of Athelia's Perfections: So leaving the Field, he returned to his Melancholly Habitation; where we will leave him to the Fancy of his Affections, and a little Discourse of almost forgotten Palman.

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Palma being appointed by King Brilion, Deputy Governour of Ithica Castle, wherein the beautiful Mersilva was kept Prisoner; having his Heart inspired with Compassion, grievously troubled to fee Porus his Governour, fo rigorously me her: For, whereas the King did allow her a decent Chamber, pleasant Walks, a Table answerable to her Person, and a Damofel to attend her; he on the contrary abridg'd her of these Privileges, placing her in an obscure Dungeon; where the thought of so detestable a Damp, might have hurried Alexander himself, into 2 Labyrinth of Despair: For instead of pleasant Walks, she had only the Liberty of her close Prison; her Dier was very homely, and scarce enough to affift Na ture; and instead of a Damsel to attend her, was basely served by an ugly Rustian, in the Furrows of whose angry Brows, envious Wrath fat Triumphant; having from his Governour a ffrict Order, to hinder all those, which in her Distress, should give her Relief.

Mersilva perceiving her hard Usage, Exclaimed on Fortune, deploring that ever she had attained to so dismal an Aspect! Weep she might, for there was no

E 4 Spectators

Spectators of her Lamentation; and well might she Lament, and cast forth Sighs; for there was none to Comfort her in the depth of her Miseries! for if at any time she bemoan'd her self to her rigorous. Keeper, with forcible Arguments to induce him to pity, she was immediately check'd with a Catalogue of Reproaches; alledging, that her Entertainment exceeded her Merits: Which as a second Wound, did so transport her Reason, to compleat Anguish, that with wringing Hands, and throbbing Sighs, she to her self breath'd out these Words.

Perplex'd Mersilva! thou hast just occion to acknowledge, how inconstant Fortune, doth at her Pleasure conduct Princes to the top of Prosperity; and immediatety turning the Needle of her Compass to another Point, doth violently rend the bark of their pristine Estate, against the dangerous Rocks of suture Perdition; where suffering Shipwack, the Memory of their Happiness is presently overwhelm'd in the unmerciful Entrails of tyrannizing Destiny. Unfortunate Mersilva! in that Camelion Tragedy, thou art a principal Actres;

Royal Flower of Fidelity. for the subject of thy Misery, hath as a Prologue mounted thee on the Theatre of Destruction: Most wretched Mersilva! when the Memory of thy Birth pierceth through the Thoughts of Confideration; and comparing past Honours, to present Calamities, what Terror of Aggravation it doth apply to thy Hope, thou mayest well Conjecture; whereas others can scarcely Presuppose. Ah, Desolate Mersilva! how are thy Delights now Transmuted to melancho-' ly Contemplations? thy Pleasantness re-'vers'd to Mourning, and all thy former Pleasures metamorphos'd to Solitariness? Most certain it is, that Glory fades, as well as flourishes; Beauty dies, as well as infults; and Honour withers, as the Flowers of the Field, which no fooner fpring forth with Time, but die with Cynthia. What then is the World but a Labyrinth of Perplexities? What then:

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is Dignity, but the Seat of Ambition? And what is Glory, but the Throne of Grandeur? Mersilva! such is the vicif-

fitude of this terrestrial Diadem, that be-'ing produc'd in Sin, we profecute in Fol-'ly; and never forbear to detest Vertue,

before we are ingulfed in the Stream of E.4 ..

Vice: Therefore account thy Miseries as a Recompence predestinated for thy Fortune; thy Torments, as a Reward for thy Sin; and lastly, term thy Calamities, as a meritorious Affliction, projected for thy ill Conduct.

Which dolefull Words she uttered with fuch zealous Fervency, that the Report thereof, would have caused Disdain her felf, to have pitied her; for some times she walk'd in her miserable Cottage, and then instantly threw her felf on her Bed of Care, where drawing her Curtains close about her, one might adjudge it to be a Sepulcher, and her felf a Corpse therein interred & When again, reviving her Spirits, and remembring her Misery, she would forrowfully Smile, and instantly Rebuke her felf, for committing fuch an Offence. Her Handkerchief she often wash'd with Tears, which trickled down her forrowfull Cheeks, and then immediately dried them, with fanning Wind on her Face, to enliven her Spirits: In which forrowfull manner she past the day, without being Comforted by the assistance of any; untill at last the found of her Complaint reach'd the Ears of Prince

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Prince Plivio, which infus'd in him fo much Relentation, that knowing her to be a Princess Royally descended, and Innocently committed, without being Guilty of any Crime, against the Crown or Kingdom of Zanfara; he being vanquish'd with Compassion, cry'd out,

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Ruel Plivio! can Humanity fuffer fo Beautifull a Princess as Mersilva to endure Imprisonment, and thou enjoy 'thy Liberty? or can the Dignity of that "Divine Sex, obtain no more Favour at 'thy Hands, where thou canft afford Re-'lief? Are thy Senies fo clouded with Obscurity, thy Eyes so darkned with Impiety, or thine Heart fo loaded with "Cruelty, that her Tears cannot Sollieite to thee for her Freedom; or her Complaints as Advocates of her Innocency, perfectly plead to thee for her speedy Enlargement? How will the World blame thee of Ingratitude, the Conscience 'accuse thee of Rigour, and the Thoughts condemn thee of Tyranny, when the odiousness of thy Fact, shall are to the Judgment-Seat of Reason; where thy Faults being descried, and thy Folly disclosed? What Shadow of Argument can't thou alledge for thy Excuse? or What

What Mask of Sensibility canst thou produce to o'er-veil thy Inhumanity? Confider with thy felf from whence thou 'art extracted; if from the Loins of a Woman, how comes it to pass, thou differelt from so temperate a Nature. Plivio! recall thy Sences to the Throne of Pity, and drown the rigorousness of thy Mind in the Gulf of Oblivion: Let Lenity be in thy Thoughts and Remorfe in thy Cogitations; and ungratefull Plivio, resolve, that to relieve the Distressed is an operation of Charity, and to affift an afflicted Lady is worthy commendation. What though thy Governour is inhumane, must thou of confequence detest her? No Plivio, let: not thy Cruelty obscure thy Liberality, nor let perverse Impiety overwhelm thy Affability, but rather let thy Actions favour of Friendship, and let thy Resolutions be qualified with Generosity; and in so doing, the Gods will esteem it an Act of Justice, and all Mankind a glorious Compassion to fo much Vertue.

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Upon the ground of which Resolution, inciting his Breast with the animosity of Honour.

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Honour, he resolved to visit the Princess Mersilva. Whereupon, he immediately directed his Course to the place where she forrowfully lay imprison'd: where he was no fooner entred, but he beheld her fitting on her Bed of Misery, having her Face o'er-veil'd with a fable Scarf, as if she partly detefted to see the appearance of delightfull Phabus; when not fecurely fleeping, but rather dolefully flumbering. being by his presence disturbed from her pensive Contemplations, she forthwith raifed her felf from her Seat of Sorrow, and putting afide her Scarf, discovered a perfeet Copy of transcendant Beauty, from whence her radient Eyes displayed their fplendant Influence, as fixed Stars, divinely feated in the Celestial Element, approaching to her, with an humble Reverence. he most courteously address'd himself, in these words.

fair presence, to crave pardon for my neglect of Duty, in deserring so long that Consolation I might have administred to you, which in this Castle I can claim some Privilege; but Dear Madam, impute it not wholly to my want of Care, for it was my Governour's Command

was the main Obstacle that kept me from prosecuting my. Intentions; which now being removed by his Departure to the Court, Fortune has opportunely given me this Happiness of waiting on you, and of offering you all the Civilities which this Castle, or my Interest afford you; therefore Madam, if you please to recreate your self in the Gardens and Walks adjoining, I will attend you, and secure your facred Person from all harms and violence.

The Princess Mersilva wondering at this unexpected Kindness, dying her Chrystal Cheeks with a Vermillion Blush, very courteously returned him this Answer.

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Sir, my vanquish'd Hope, which hath been transported to the very brink of Despair, being now by your extraordinary Favours inspired with Consolation, doth for this your kind relief, render you Millions of Thanks for this unmerited Succour, and since you are pleased to afford me that happiness, I should be very unworthy to you, and much wanting to my self, if I did not accept of so great a Freedom, as to enjoy the Air of the fragrant Fields.

Plinio perceiving her Inclination to walk

Plivio perceiving her Inclination to walk

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and take the Air, very courteously took her by the hand, and conducted her by a Postern Gate through the Castle to the Walks, and from thence to the pleafant Arbours; where Mersilva delighting to range from Bank to Bank, and from Fourtain to Bower, leaving in a manner no place therein unprospected, she at last arrived to a very fumptuous Fountain; whose Walls being of glistering Alablaster, and shining Marble, gave such a Grace to Mersilva's Eyes, that her Spirits at so pleasant a Prospect did then receive the long look'd-for Motion of delightfull Contentment: At last hearing the Descent of fome issuing Stream, which made a musical Harmony in falling to the Concavity of the Earth, she began to trace round the circumference of the Fountain, where she espied on the East-side of it, two stately Pillars of Dove-white Ivory, being very curiously carved and adorned with fpacious Guards of refin'd Azure, wherein were enamell'd lovely Roses, and splendent Stars of artificial Ingenuity; on the tops of the Pillars stood two Female Images, most industriously painted, well refembling the Graces, each holding in their hands a little Vane, where on one fide was pain-

painted Minerva, and on the other Diana, and joining their other hands, which they elevated over their heads, did support the third Grace, being crowned with an Olympian Garland, holding in both her hands a Table of Celestial Hue, seated in a Frame of illustrious Argent, from out whose fix globy Paps, refembling for whiteness the Snow which doth embrace the Pyrenian Mountains, rush'd forth Chrystal Spouts of filver Water; whereat she being for a while delighted, at last perceiv'd betwixt the two Pillars a Geometrical Door, where entring, she beheld a small Mountain in form of a Pyramid, which reach'd to the top of the Fountain, from whence Nature yielded forth many a Vein of weeping Water, which by degrees distilling down the Rock, was thorough filver Pipes by Art most curiously conveyed to the Graces Paps: which Mersilva seeing, shut the door, and refolved to depart; but by . chance, reflecting her fight, as unwilling so soon to take her Farewell, glancing her Eyes at random upon the perfection of the upper Grace, she, either deluded with a shadow, or possess'd with a Fancy, immediately conceived, that she saw her artificial Eyes naturally reflect in the Model

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of their Influence, and fo being in Imagination induced that it was fo, or elfe thinking that at the request of some second Pygmalion, the Goddess Venus had with Life likewise inspir'd her; she thought with her felf, that the faid Grace, by fome means or other, had interiorly fome lively feeling of natural Sence, and applying it as the Allusion of her Fancy drave her, conjectured, that she invited her more near to approach: in respect whereof, mounting a step which stood very close before the Graces, she thought with them, but especially the uppermost, to have some private Conference; where being elevated the prefently forgat her felf, as if some facred Deity had so before predestinated it, and after was instant put in mind of her dolefull Calamities; whereat much lamenting, she blushed, in that she had committed fo flupid an Abfurdity: when looking about her, and not feeing Plivio there, efpying a blue Table, she leaned upon it, and charmingly fung these Lines.

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The Glories of our Birth and State, are shadows, not substantial things, There is no Armour against Fate, Death lays his Icy hands on Kings;

Scepters

Scepters and Crowns
Must tumble down,
And in the Dust be equal laid,
With the poor crooked Scythe and Spade.

Some Men with Swords may reap the Field, and plant fresh Lawrels where they kill; But their strong Nerves at last must yield, they tame but one another still:

Early or late
They stoop to Fate,
And must give up their murmuring Breath, When the pale Captive creeps to Death.

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The Garland withers on your Brow,
then boast no more your mighty Deeds;
For upon Death's purple Altar now,
see where the Victor Victim bleeds:
All Heads must come,
To the cold Tomb;
Only the Actions of the just,
Smell sweet and blossoms in their Dust.

Whilst the Princess Mersilva was viewing this sumptuous Garden, Prince Plivio commanded a very gallant Banquet to be there prepared; the which most kindly in an Eglantine Bower he presented her; and to make her Entertainment pleasant, ordered

ordered a Confort of Lutes, and three Eunuchs to warble forth a melodious Harmony. In this manner for a' while they deluded the time; Prince Plivio all this while never fail'd to glance his Eye on the fweet Object of Merfilva's Beauty; which Cupidelpying, immediately bent his Bow, and let fly an Arrow, headed with Defire, and feathered with Affection; which fo forcibly hit Plivio to the heart, that he im mediately fainted at the stroke, so that now he acknowledg'd no Goddes but Cytherea, no Saint but Venus, nor no Lord but Love: so that his Breast being penetrated with the influence of Amorousness after having re-conducted the Princess Mersilva to the Castle, he hasted to his own Apartment, and there poured forth these Contemplations...

What Plivio! art thou in a moment vanquish'd in the Field of Beauty! or hath Cupid such Influence at the first Approach to penetrate thy Breast with Affection? Can, thy Resolutions which were devoted to Bellona, now stoop to Venus, and so make Garlands in her praise; whereas before thou disdainest her Society? Wilt thou not fondly bathe thy Senses in amorous Cogitations, and though to thy prejudice

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The Garden of Love, and iudice devote thy felf a Sacrifice to Love's Altar? Beware Plivio! the Syrenes have weet Voices, yet are deceitfull, the Panthers fair Skins, yet infectious, and the Amazons beautifull Faces, yet meer Diffemblers: though Helen was fair, she was petulant; Thais was lovely, yet leud; and Semiramis, though curious, was a Courtesan: But alas, Plivio! one Example makes not a Maxim; nor doth play forepast Crimes include general Actions: ling for speak without partiality, and thy by Conscience will plead, that as there hath silve been a wanton Heun, to the Chaft Lucretia; M been a wanton Helen, so there was a wise a vicious Semiramis, yet a vertuous Susama; thérefore Plivio, retire not with but Pufillanimity, but advance with Fortifor I tude; for as the Poet fings, A faint Heart Beau never pluck'd Fruit from the Tree of Love. On the Consider with thy self what Mersilva is; in the mirrour of Verity, by descent a more princes. Princess, of Qualities a Queen, of Bean the 10 ty an Angel, and of Perfection the only derive Phanix of her Sex. Who then but would relica esteem such a Virgin? Who then but insw would love fuch a matchless Paragon deli Nay, who but would facrifice his Life in ort; the behalf of so sweet a Saint? the behalf of so sweet a Saint?

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Thus embathing his mind in amorous Contemplation, and folacing his Senfes in Mersilva's Beauty, he remained so restless. that no Object could please him, but the Idea of the fair Mersilva; no thought content him, unless sprung from her Majestical Vertue; nor no Imagination delight him, unless derived from her rare Perfections: fo as burning with Defire to difoth play his Pretence, he at last with a trembons: ling Resolution, wrote these Lines; which thy by a trufty Messenger, he sent to fair Merhath filva.

Plivio to Mersilva.

etia; M Adam, I have discovered so great a Passion in my Breast which none with but your gracious felf is able to appeale; Forti- for having fixed my Eyes upon so much Beauty, I am bent to direct my Devotions on the Altar of your flourishing Excellentia is; fince I repose the first Fruits of my ent a morous Inclinations, in contemplating on . Beau the Idea of your divine Perfections, and only derive my chiefest Solace from your Anwould relical Personage; I hope a favourable n but inswer will be the Reward of my constant agon idelity: but Madam, my Reprieve is but ife in ort; for if you now reject the faithful-

I shall receive it as your Commands, to decline adoring you, which fince I cannot whilft I live, I am resolved by Death, to obey you, which I shall embrace with Joy, if it can produce any, in the fair-Mersilva.

Till Death, your constant Plivio.

Mersilva receiving the Letter, and guesfing from whom it came, without any difdain, opened it, and reading it with a blushing Countenance; because Love was the great Theme; having read it, she fetch'd a great Sigh, and instantly found her Senses furrounded with manyagreeable Notions of Plivio's Perfections; every Line feeming to make a smooth path-way for Cupid's Entrance: but at last curbing her Paphian Sparks with a modest Countenance, and confidering the Favour he had before shewn her, she resolved to re- migh turn him this Answer.

Mersilvo to Plivia.

Received yours, without much difficy the L culty, thinking only to hear of your inding welfare; but contrary to my expectation lames found it full of amorous Fancy; where p profined it full of my Immodesty, a shich blam to a

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blam'd my hand for having intermeddled with fo prejudicial an Affair: but weighing the former Favours received from you. I thought it agreeable to return you anAnfwer; the purport whereof is to requelt you there a folemn Adieu to your com-ment. Enterprize; for the thought of Affection cannot harbour in my Breaft: forbear therefore the creating of your felf any farther Trouble of writing to me in that Dialect; for they are Motives which molest my Imaginations; and cease your Sollicitations to her, which till Death intends not to be won by any: not omitting Thanks for your former Favours, I remain. Your Friend Merfilva.

Having finish'd it, she was doubting whether she should fend it, fearing least it might redound to the prejudice of her Fame; but at last sounding the depth of her Affection, by the mutability of her fancies, and the Foundation of her Love, y the Allurement of her Liking; and nding her felf to be inspired with the lames of Cytherea, the instantly resolved profecute her purpose; by vertue of hich Resolution, she forthwith delivered blam to a Messenger to convey it to Plivio;

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who using his diligence, in a short time arrived at the Palace, where Prince Plivio was as then resident; and being brought to his presence, he accomplished the Prin-

cess Command,

The Prince not knowing from whence it came, very bufily opened it, and without further prolixity of Introduction, directed his Eyes to the bottom, and found the glorious name of Mersilva: Whether his thoughts were then obscured by divine Inspiration, or his breast replenish'd with many ravishing Contemplations, I refer the Censure thereof, to those which have likewise enjoyed an Essence of the like sacred Tenuity: But one may credulously Conjecture, that the fight of this Celestial Present did not only solace our despairing Plivio, but likewise infused a sudden Encouragement to his afflicted Malady; embracing the Letter in his hand, he very often kist the Oracle of Mersilva's name, and with many pearled Tears, seconded with affectionate Sighs, instantly paid thereof the faithfull welcome: but at last, calling his Thoughts to a retreat, and founding his Discretion, to refresh his Senses, he with Confideration read it distinctly over and finding it not agreeable to his Inclina-

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cions, he instantly raged and stormed, as if the demonstrations of his furiousness, were to be presented on Folly's Theatre; fometimes he would stamp, and in a moment stare, as if his Brains had been befotted with a Lunatick Frenzy; then curse Cupid because he seduced him; and yet instantly yield many millions of thanks to Venus, for investing him a Servant to so divine a Creature: When repeating the name of Mersilva, he would quietly sit down and slumber, as though the Deity of that facred Word, had some divine Authority to charm his Senses; sometimes with detestable Reproaches, he would rebuke his Eyes for so unfortunately gazing upon Mersilva's Beauty. The Messenger was all this while a Spectator of Plivio's Passions; and mistrusting it proceeded from the Princesses occasion, which wrought in him that perplexity, instantly leaving him to his Pasfions, departed, and informed the Princels, in the highest degree, the manifestation of his Malady, and the melancholly Humour of his perplexed Calami-

Which

Which the Princess Mersilva no sooner understood, but being afresh inslamed with his Affection, she very suddenly, in her Princely Breaft, conceived a motion of Remorfe; being exceeding anxious, that the should occasion to much aggravation: when separating her self from Company, the betook her to her Closet, resolving to breath forth her Passions to her self, where being no fooner entred, but the Princes Atbelia knocking at the door, came to vifit her, and likewise for that night to be her Bedfellow; Mersilva smothered her Sorrows as well as she could, and putting on a chearfull Countenance, entertained. her; fo with a great deal of Familiarity and friendly Conference, they deluded the time, till Supper being ended, and the Skies o'er-veil'd with obscure night, they both betook themselves to their Bed; where both, but especially Mersilva, slept with watchfull Countenance; having their minds tracing upon their Favourite's Per-But splendant Aurora, the joyfull Messenger of Phabus, had no sooner in Combat conquer'd the vastal night, fo given the fable Clouds a valorous Q throw, but radiant Titan transpiercin Darts through their Damask Curtains

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ly in the morn, made Mersilva arise; who without any noise, leaving Athelia in Bed, apparell'd her felf, directing her Course to the Fields; when circumferencing divers pleafant Meadows, she at last arrived to a fragrant Mountain, where not only finding that the Spring did present her with a delicious Umbrage, but also that Photos had there exhaled the balmy drough. the Face of Flora, the most majestically laid her down on the verdant Grafs, having a Bush of Eglantine mixt with Cowflips in her hand, not only to repulse the Rays of ardent Olympus, but also to keep off the Gnats and Bees from her Rose Cheeks; where pensively contemplaring luded with her felf, the breathed forth their nd the Words.

'Ah Mersilva! how are thy Sences 'caught in the Snares of Affection and how are thy delightfull Pleasures now diverted to amorous Passions! Can the mind, which formerly could receive no Impression, become now tractable to receive any Stamp!

Which Words she had no sooner uttered, but casting her Eyes about, she espied, unspectedly, Prince Plivio; whereat excedingly blushing, the Blessing being so

great, that it charmed her purple Bloud to assemble; she immediately prepared her self to entertain him; who was no sooner arrived, but he emboldned himself, and opportunely saluted her: he was so exexquisitely thereat delighted, that he absolutely thought her Lips had that attractive Power to amaze his Sences; but at last summoning of them again in their proper Order, and having seated her on a pleasant Bank, grasping her by the Lilly-white hand; though Affection had a long time silenced his Tongue, with a trembling Voice he at length addressed himself to her.

Voice he at length addressed himself to her.
Madam, My Eyes no sooner restected
on your divine Beauty, but my Heart
was made your Captive; and those
troublesome Lines which you received,
was but a Messenger of my Mind, and
an Earnest of my entire Assections; I
am come now to present you with the
Original, and to inform you, Madam,
that my Passion is of that extent, as none
but that Beauty which created it, can

give it Limits: your facred Self is the Celestial Image to whom I bind and

confecrate my earthly Devotions; there fore, Madam, I befeech you decline norm

Affection, but make me fo happy to en

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Royal Flower of Fidelity.

fiping your Favours, that I may give Defipair a Farewell, and so again cherish my afflicted Hope, with the Joy which your felf shall ingender in my more than cheerfull Imaginations.

Mersilva observing with what zealous affection he declared himself, could instantly have condescended to his so reasonable a Request; but thinking so soon to yield were but imprudency in her Sex, she at

last return'd this Answer.

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Sir! the fairest Flowers do commonly harbour the foulest Wasps; and where the Stream feems most pleasant, it is often most dangerous; delicate Words are but counterfeit Shadows for Deceit; and when the Sky feems clear it con presages a Storm: Men in these semble the Picture of Janus, wh prescribe a Colour for every Physics my, and a Fancy for every Favour therefore as I will trust none, so Lintend not to try any; lest reposing Confidence unadvisedly, I purchase Repentance too dear, and so Discretion coming too late, I crave pardon out of Season. Diana's Maxims in my Thoughts are not lo foon evaporated, weither will I to prejudice

my felf as to effeem Venus my Patronels;

'in the Mirrour of Experience I daily behold the downfall of divers, in respect
whereof, by others harms I mean to beware: Therefore Sir, if you please to
relinquish your Suit, I may perchance
respect you as a Friend; or if the con-

trary, hate you as an Enemy.

Plivio perceiving his Saint to fight always under the Banner of Cruelty, and sufpecting his Fidelity, having his disturbed Muse ingulph'd in the Ocean of Perplexity, did along time remain silent; but restecting his Observations upon the Excellency of her Beauty, return'd this Replication.

Why fair Mersilva, one Swallow makes not a Summer, nor doth forepast Events conclude future Maxims: Affection comes by Destiny, not by Device, and is therefore natural, not artificial. It is hard to censure of my Qualities, by others Qualifications, and very difficult to judge of my Affections by others Insidelity; therefore Madam, to remove all Obstacles that may create your Diffidence, I will seal what I have delivered with this Protestation, That my Passion for you, Madam, is firm, not inconstant,

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faithful, not feigned; and so grounded upon

Royal Flower of Fidelity.

upon the Rock of immoveable, entire at mity, that as my days shall demonstrate

'my perpetual Affection, so my Death 'shall testifie my immortal Fidelity.

Mersilva hearing his solemn Protestations, immediately redned in such an amorous manner, that she could scarce refrain discovering her Affection; but at last with a compos'd Countenance, she return'd him this Answer.

'Sir, it is high time to put a Conclusion to our Conference, fince the Theme whereon you descant proceeds from Fol-

'ly; for if you imagine that my Thoughts

will condescend to Love's Embracements you deceive your Hopes with a vain Ab-

' furdity; what I outwardly speak, pro-

claims my fecret Intentions, therefore bury your Speeches in the Grave of fi-

'lence, and presume not to present her with your Love, which esteems not any

with your Love, which encems not way of your Affection.

Plivio being much perplex'd, was framing an Answer, but Mersilva perceiving by his Countenance what the production his Discourse would be, very suddenly without taking leave, departed, where leaving him to his Perplexities, and her to her Passions, we will for a while sience

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nded upon their Proceedings, and entertain our felves with Prince Medor's Adventures.

Prince Medor, as you have formerly heard, having acquired the Love of the Princess Florina, and grounded his Affections in her Memory; was frustrated in the confummation of his Blifs. by King Agener, her Father, who utterly denyed to match his Daughter with him, in respect of an ancient Antipathy between Pince Medor's Father and himself. So that perceiving he could not obtain his desire, nor fo much as confer with the Princes Florima, by reason the King her Father had commanded her to retire into the Country, he immediately refolv'd to travel, hoping that the Influence of Time would raze out the King's Indignation; he at last determined to take a Voyage to the Isle of Madagascar, to pay his Duty and Service to his Uncle, Duke of Alphonio: but yet, if departing without leave of the Lady Florina thould render him guilty of Ingratitude, he at last with Tears in his Eyes writ these Lines.

Medor, to the fair Princels Florina.

Adam, Destiny resolving to metamorphose our Pleasures into pensiveness,

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ness, hath doubtless instigated the King your Father to exercise his invective Malice against our Innocency; so that, dear Madam, I am forc'd to depart, and to leave behind me that transcendant Pledge of my Affection; live I cannot, but intorment; being deprived of the fight of fo much Beauty: but firch, Madam, is my unfortunate Fortune, and the Gods in the Synods of their Resolutions have imposed it as a period to commence my Miferies; nay more than fo, I think ratified it for a Plague to impale me within the circumference of endless Disconsolation. But Madam, in what desolate place foever Terect my Residence, my Contemplations shall dwell upon the Idea of your Beauty, and my mind ruminate upon your divine Perfections; and daily upon the Altar of Love I will facrifice Sighs, in testimonial of my immoveable Affections; therefore Dear Madam, be not difmay'd for the Gods who have made this Dec ee, may in time revoke their Sentence; fo committing you to the protection of the Powers Divine, Madam, your constant Servant till Death, Meder.

Which having ended, he delivered it to F 4 an

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an intimate Friend to convey to her; and fo finding a Ship ready, he imbarqued himself for Madagascar; sometime he was floating upon the proud Billows, and past by feveral Ports and Islands, and at last betwixt a Bay and an Island was overtaken by a cruel tempestuous Storm, which continued a long time, and forc'd them into a Port in Africa; where gaining the Shore, and finding himfelf weak, through his Marine Sickness; he instantly resolved there to make his Abode; and so taking leave of the Master, and bestowing his Liberality upon the Ship's Company, he there betook himself to erect his residence: till at last being advertiz'd by a Merchant, that the Court of Zanfara was the Rendevouze of the Flower of Chivalry, he determin'd thither to travel: in which Journey, some few Leagues from the Court, by chance straying in a Forrest, and arriving to a solitary Cottage, whose situation corresponded with his disturbed Passions, he resolved there to make his Habitation; the better to passawaythe dolefull time, whilst absent from his fair Florina, and the better to cloud his Secrets from the fight of neighbouring Spectators, he difguifed himfelf in a Hermit's Habit, feeming outwardly to

all Passengers, the chief Inhabitant of that vastal Grove; where forgetting his former Dignity, and folacing himself with the remembrance of his fair Florina, he a long time lived as a Man which had forfaken the alluring Jollities of this inconstant World, devoted his Soul to the only enjoying of Celestial Felicities. But Love, which still inspired him with the Beauty of his Princess, would not so abandon this her amorous Favourite, but so tyranously furnish'd his mind with ardent Flames of Affection, that thinking to sleep, Cupid would permit Morpheus no Entertainment; but forced him divers times to arife, and pourtraict forth his Passions in affirmation of his Fidelity; and at last eccho'd forth these Verses.

Break, break distracted heart, there is no cure
For this thy Soul's most desperate Calenture;
Sighs which in others Passions went,
And give them ease when they lament,
Are but the Billows to my hot Desire;
And tears in me don't quench, but nourish Fire:
Nothing can mollisse my Grief,

Or give my Passion some Relief.

Love's Flames when smother'd, always to devour

And when oppos'd by the same fatal Power,

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Then welcome Death, let thy blest hands apply A Medicine to my Grief, and then I'll dye.

It were too tedious to relate all the passages of the austere Life which Prince Medor lead in this solitary Grove, therefore let this suffice: That being vanquished with ardent Affection, he finally vowed to devote the Pilgrimage of his days to Florma's Service, and protested to adore her as the sacred Deity to whom he dedicated the generality of his Terrestrial Devotions. Therefore leaving him to his Disconsolateness to be relieved by patience, we will return to Prince Thalmo, and his Princess the sair Athelia.

Prince Thalmo perceiving the fair Athelia to be always devoted to Cruelty, and concluding with himself, that she triumphed over his Martyrdom, being overcome with Love and loaded with Affection; could reap no rest of his Senses, until he had a Prospect of her singular Beauty; she being in the next Arbour, he addressed himself to her, after a small Complement,

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and faid.

Madam, the Nature of Planets is to have each his Influence, and it being my. Fortune to be Planet-struck with that excelling

him a

celling Beauty which you posses, I am now come to the Divine Oracle to learn whether I shall be happy or miserable.

Athelia surpriz'd to see Thalmo present; yet shadowing her Affection under the protection of Nicety, with a little redness faid: Thalmo, if Planets have power to reform Civility, then I hope your old 'Folly is metamorphosed to new Discrecretion: For my part I am what I pro-'fessed, and if you approve of it, as you came unlooked for, so when you please

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'you may depart.
'Why, Madam! replyed Thalmo, fo harsh a Sentence? should I which have been faithfull to you, even from the Birth of your first Aspect, become now to your Deity inconstant; or would you advise me to transform my forepast Af-'fection into future Hatred? Thy Hatred, ' faid Athelia, doth more please me than 'thy Affection, and yet I care little for both, and for thy felf less. Thalmo being ready to answer her, but was prevented by Levina her Gentlewoman, who came on purpose to attend her; the which as foon as he espied, with a very low bow and a forrowfull Resolution he departed: raging against Cupid for predestinating

him to serve so cruel a tyrannizing Beauty: when walking apart in a private place, he espied his fair Athelia to direct her course to the Court. Upon which he re-entred the Arbour, where she was, and looking round him, he observed the Turtles in their Amours; upon which seating himself he breathed out these Verses.

Observe those Turtles kind and true,
Hearken how frequently they wooe;
They faithfull Lowers are, and true,
If they that see'em would but be so too.
Of them my fair Athelia learn,
At length to grant me my Concern;
Follow what thou in them dost see,
And thou wilt soon be kind to me.

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Having thus vented himself, and seeing his sair Athelia absent, he at last thinking to find her in her Closet; where very pensively entring, and not seeing her there, immediately directed his way to the Court; where he was no sooner arrived, but a Page meets him, and delivers him this Message and Challenge. 'Sir, Prince' Albion my Master, hearing of the Assertion you bear to the Princess Athelia, whose Beauty those that pretend to it, must

Royal Flower of Fidelity.

must dispute it in the Field of Honour. and to that end hath fent thee this refo-'lute Defiance, which I here deliver to thee: Which Thalmo opening, it con-' tain'd these Words.

Almion to Thalmo.

DRoudest Arabian! being acquainted with thy aspiring Affections towards the Lady Athelia, whom the World knows none can lay claim to fo high a Favour but my felf; and by reason my Courage disdains to digeft fo unpleafing a Difgrace, I have fent you this Defiance, to meet me fingle in the Castle Trench after Dinner, there to dispute it with thy Sword; where I will feverly chaftife thy 'Infolence in croffing my Affections, and make thee sensible, that in all things thou ' haft abused thy Superiour, Almion.

Thalmo wondering at this unexpected News, and disdained to be out-braved by a Zanfarian Prince, by his own Page return'd this.

The Answer. Nderstanding by your Defiance, that for my Duty I pay to the Lady Atbelia, you have assum'd that Title

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of being my School-master, to correct me for that which your felf cannot avoid; my Nature is fuch, that I defire to live no longer, then to be deprived of the Beauty of the fair Athelia: at the Time and Place appointed my Sword shall demonstrate that my Affection is such to Arbelia, that whilft here, I will live and dye in her Service; and neither thy Valour, nor fear of Death shall raze her Idea out of my Memory.

Thalmo.

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The hour being come, Thalmo according to his promise, fail'd not to present himfelf; where, inflead of meeting his Rival Albion, he was treacherously encountered by a Crew of desporate Russians, which were there by Albion plac'd in an Ambufcado to Murther him; who feeing they fo fiercely approached him, instantly began to put himself in a posture of Defence to receive their Fury; where with a mag. nanimous Courage he dealt fuch gallant Blows among them, that at first, not able to endure his Valour, they were forc'd to retreat: but after re-assuming their strength they very coaragiously slew upon him, where they fo manfully behaved themseives, that Thalmo not able to withstand their

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their Force, was glad to retire, and take the Castle Wall for his Defence; where he so valiantly behaved himself, that for recompence of their Treachery, he made many of them bear the weight, and undergo the sharpness of his Civilian Sword: but in short, their Force bearing Sway, and their Number Masterdom, he unfortunately received many dangerous Wounds, from whence issued out abundance of Bloud, that finding his Body weak, and feeling his Senses fail him, thinking there was no way but Death, falling to the ground, and gasping as he thought his last, he in Memory of his dear Athelia breath'd out these words: Let my bloud testifie bow well I loved Athelia, and remain'd constant even to the last.

Thalmo had no fooner uttered these Words, but Prince Plivio being sumbering behind a Bank next adjoining, hearing the Name of Thalmo repeated, immediately started up, and seeing the Prince his Consint to be in danger amongst these Russians, instantly stept in to his Assistance; where making way with his Sword, be histed him on his feet, and so desiring him to be of good Courage, slew to his Adversaries, where he distributed such valorous strokes amongst

amongst them, that in short some sied, and the rest being vanquished, he triumphantly remained Conqueror: which was no Coner finished, but using his best Art and Industry, bound up his Cousin's Wounds, and conveyed him to a skilfull Chyrurgion there next adjoining, commanding him to dress him with all care imaginable; whereupon taking Horse, he speedily posted to the Court, and informed the Princels Athelia of the forrowfull News; which when fhe heard, immediately fell in a Trance. Plivio beholding this unexpected Accident, and wanting an Expedient, fummon'd his Senses in their proper Order, and employ'd his utmost Diligence for the Ladies recovery; which he very foon effected, begging her to be of good comfort, for that there was no doubt to be made of Thalmo's Health. The Princess being therewith a little qualified, for a while appeas'd her felf; yet continued weeping for his Misery, being sensible it was her Affection which induced him to fo hazardous an Enterprize : but thinking how to demean her felf in fo tragical an Event, at last shedding many Tears, she resolved by his Friend Plivio to fend a few Lines, as a manifestation of her Affection, and as an unguent

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Preservative to his Wounds; so calling for Pen and Paper, she wrote to this effect.

Athelia to Thalmo.

Thalmo, the heavy News of thy Misfortune has implored my Affection to put Pen to Paper; and hath so overwhelm'd my Senses with Grief, that there is almost no words herein contained, but hath been washed with a Tear, nor no Syllable but hath been saluted with a Sigh: Yet since it is none but Athelia is the Original of thy Misfortune, I will to the utmost of my power recompence thy Affections; so recommending my Sorrows to your favourable Centure, I unfeignedly am Yours as her own

Atbelia.

Thalmo receiving the Letter from Prince Plivio, found now by Experience that the Distemper of the mind far exceeds that of the Body; for it wrought such Miracles upon his Cure, that in few days he was perfectly recovered; and contemplating upon that favourable Epistle which his dear Athelia had sent him, and not to be guilty of so high an Ingratitude in not returning an Answer, he enforcing himself to sit up, writ her these Lines.

Thalmo

Thalmo to the fair Athelia. Adam, the Honour you were plea-Madam, the Floridat your unworthy fed to afford to your unworthy Servant, has wrought fuch Wonders upon my Distemper, that no other Physi-' cian but your felf could have effected fuch 'a Cure; the vertue thereof being fo well applied, that the powerful Charm had 'its full operation: Therefore, Madam, on the Idea of your Divine Perfections 'will I for ever fix my Memory, and exercife my Contemplations upon your matchless Beauty; never forgetting my kind Preserver, but will continually offer up Millions of Thanks for the Receipt of fo great a Bleffing, and unfeignedly remain, Yours now and ever.

Thalmo. The Princess Athelia receiving the Ler-ter, was much pleas'd with the News of Thalmo's Recovery, yet could not be fatisfled with that Copy of the Letter without feeing the Original Hand that writ it; fe that at last finding an Opportunity, when the King and Queen her Parents were abfent, taking Levina with her, she instantly went to the Lodge, where she was advertifed Thalmo was resident; being conducted to his Chamber, the beheld Thalmo very pen

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pensively walking alone, having his Arm bound up in a Scarf; he no sooner espied the Princess Athelia, but was transported beyond Measure, and forthwith embrac'd and kift her hands; their Eyes like pieruch cing Aspects attracted each others sight, well that like Ambassadors of Love they seem'd had to ratifie a mutual Alliance; their Tongues were filent for a while, till at last an amorous Blush had given leave to fo pleafing an Encounter, Athelia uttered these words.

> 'Thalmo, you may wonder at my unexpected Arrival, and yet you may imagine the News of your Misfortune lead me hither, and not to keep you any longer in suspence, I am now come in some measure to retaliate your Affection, tho? indeed before I thought it not convenient to take it so soon in consideration; but fince the Gods have fo decreed it, there is no refisting the Divine Powers; therefore you may place your Happinels. where your kind Stars directs you.

> Thalmo hearing this Celestial Lecture, perceived by the fervency of her Words that she uttered no more than Love did infuce her; very foftiy taking of her by her nowy hand, return'd her this obliging Answer. 'Madam.

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Madam, your Words have fo much Divinity in themselves, that they carry a power with 'em, to whom they are directed; and are a high Cordial to afflicted, Spirits; the Operation hath caused my Breast to triumph o'er my Sickness, which heretofore I believed would not He only have conquered my mind, but allo cut off the Thread of my Life; therefore welcome, dear Madam, to your forth Thanks to kind Fortune, for investing in c mine Eyes with fo heavenly an Object retu but whether wander my Senses, that I forget my felf fo much, as not to grati-In fie your Love with reciprocal Affection? 'tal but pardon me, dear Madam, and attribute the Defects of my Reason to the but c zea Distemper of my Weakness; for I re-Lo folve that both now and ever to honour and adore you as the eternal Goddess of my Prosperity; and esteem you as the firm facred Image of my Felicity. To which Athelia answered, Prince From

Thalmo, where there is no Offence committed, by consequence the Excuse cease of seth: thy Actions having cleared from lesit.

Imputation; be not timorous, for the lesit.

Pardon is sealed; therefore advance in while

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nuch Love, and I will profecute in Affection; proceed in Amity, and I will correspond in Friendship: for Approbation of which take here my Heart and Hand as the freadfast Seal of immortal Constancy; ness, vowing before the Imperial Throne of Heaven, to establish only Thalmo for my Lord and Husband.

Thalmo esteeming himself exceeding your is of fortunate with this Angelical Reply, and efting in congratulation of her protested Amity, return'd her this Answer.

'Madam, Your fincere Affection creates in me fuch Raptures, and has fo great an gratigratigratigratigratigratiin me fuch Raptures, and has to great an election?
Influence over all my Sences, that in retaliation, I vow not only to dedicate my
taliation, I vow not only to dedicate my
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with many amorous Ceremonies they dess of firmly contracted themselves; and in such an affectionate manner, that neither the Prince Frowns of Fortune, the Treachery of Time, or the Flattery of Infinuation, fe cease could either blast their flourishing Friend-lip, or once daunt their immoveable Files or the couple to a facred Union, we will for a while leave them; and discourse of the **ftrange**

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strange Accidents which befel the Lady Florina.

Florina living very forrowfull in her desolate Castle, was at last by King Agenor her Father, commanded to Court, without any Delay; whereat being exceedingly difcontented, in respect it would hinder her Devotions due to Prince Medor; and being a faithfull Admirer of his Perfections, utterly refus'd thereunto to condescend. The King being inform'd of her Obstinacy, immediatelysent forth Messengers to force her to the Court: but she being before acquainted with it, confulted with her felf how to avoid her Father's Indignation. At last knowing of no other means for her Escape, then to shelter her self under some Peafant's Cottage, fo laying afide her Princely Extraction and Grandeur, she pursued her intended purpose; so that reaping an exceeding Delight, to fee the homely Shepherds lead their Milk-white Flocks to the fragrant Fields, and to hear divers Quires of harmonious Birds chanting forth their pleasant Notes; she remained there a long time as well contented, as a Lady in her Estate could contain her self which was opprest in Love: till on a day bearing a Shepherdess company to the endo Fields, directly in the close of the Evening, when the golden Sun was declining and leaving the Horizon to give Light to our Antipodes, and the pale faced filver Moon gave notice to Pilgrims of their Repose; as these our two Females were returning from folding their Flocks, Flerina hiding her felf under the Canopy of a fprouting Fig-Tree, fung with an excellent Voice these Lines.

Hence Cupid with your cheating Toys, Your real Griefs and painted Joys, Your Pleasures which it self destroys. Love, like Men in Fevers burn and rave, And only what ensures them do's deceive: Man's weakness makes Love so severe, They give them power by their fear, And make the Shackles which they wear. Who to another do's bis Heart fubmit, Makes his own Idol, and do's worship it. Him whose Heart is all his own, Peace and Liberty do's Crown, He apprehends no killing frown; Feels no Raptures which are Joys diseas'd, And is not much transported, but still pleas'd.

The Shepherdess seeing Florina had now to the ended, entreated her to repair home; they

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had not long tript over the diaper'd Fields, but they beheld a very young Stripling, which hastily drew towards them, who being almost out of breath with running; to the Lady Florino brought this Message.

'Madam, I am on purpose sent to beg 'you instantly, to hide your selves in some

fecret Grove; for there are arriv'd to our

Cottage, four or five, which come in fearch for you, and have very much

wounded my Father for concealing you. Therefore make no delay, Madam, if

you value your own preservation; and fince the Laws of Nature and Humanity

obliges me to aid all Ladies in Affliction,

'I will if you please, Conduct you with fasety through the Woods and Vineyards;

where I doubt not but you may remain

with most affured privacy

Florino wondering at her Father's Cruelty, yet pleas'd at the Shepherds Civility, pondering with her felf which way to wander in this Exigency; at last following the Youth's Advice, she desired the Shepherdess to bear her Company, so directing their Course to the Sea-side, which in two days they attained, without being espyed of any: But they were no sooner arrived to a harbouring Town, but they were

ded

elds, were inform'd, that there was likewise fearch made for her apprehension; whereing, at being almost overwhelmed with Passiwho on, and vanquish'd with Affection, they ng; immediately left the Town, and cros'd lage. the Strand: Tracing upon the borders of beg the Sea, they arrived to a little Creek. ome where espying an aged Fisher-man in his our Cock-boat, repairing his Nets, having e in given him the time of the day, asked nuch him, if he would for Recreation, transyou: port them a League on the Sea: The Fin, if ther-man demanding a recompence, they and thereunto agreed; fo with a merry Gale. anity which blew the Sail from the bending tion, Mast, they put to Sea, where delighting with to see the old man take store of Fish, and ards; to feel the Boat dance on the azured Seas. main In this manner they pass'd away the time, till night gave them a Summons to return: Cru-But before Florina reach'd the Shore, the vility, demonstrated her Estate to the ancient ay to Fisher-man, and likewise begg'd him with ollow-Tears in her Eyes, to affift her in this d the her miserable Distress, and for her fasery, fo dito convey her every day on the Sea. The which old man pitying her Estate, and being inbeing stigated by her Liberality, soon to her so rea-Coner

fonable a Request, voluntarily condescen-

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ded: Which course they many days ob full ferved, with as much joy to Florina, as bei if she had now been Triumphing in her the former Dignity; till at last Fortune refold cal ving to add more Misery to her Affliction Be caused her, une xpectedly, to fall within the ed Labyrinth of a greater Misfortune; for go they fo long time daily went to Sea, till at length, being two Leagues from the ing Shore, they were espyed by a Pinnace, the which ranged close along by the Clifts to Ca attrap some Purchase, who hoisting their act Sails, came directly towards them; and fo making speedy way, did very foon car dif their Boat from the Shore, commanding them to the Main; which dolefull Sentence, alarm'd our weak Company, and made them almost dye with Grief, to to think on their difastrous Calamity; but especially the Lady Florina, from whole Eyes distill'd many pearled Tears, which as the perfect Messengers of Sorrow, did apparently demonstrate her insupportable Grief; but all, alas! in vain, for there was no remedy to affift her, nor no undaunted Alcides near hand to rescue her from their Cruelty; but they were very tha rigoroully commanded to come aboard; her which with a faint Courage, and forrow Ch s ob full Resolution, they effected; na, as being the last that entered, n her the Turkish Slaves no sooner beheld, but refole casting their Eyes upon her Angelical ction Beauty, clapped their Hands, and throwin the ed up their Caps; being glad they had; for got so glorious a Prize, to present their a, till Sultan. The Comfortless Florina hangn the ing down her head with Despair, thought mace, the was now on the Stage, where the ifts to Catastrophy of her Tragedy should be their acted.

But the Captain of this curfed Crew on cut discreetly beholding her Beauty, did from nding the influence of her constant Eyes, and modest Aspect, conceive she was a vernious Person, and of great Extraction, in respect whereof he discharged the and retain'd only perplex'd Florina, he commanded to be entertained with all respect and favour imaginable; and the better to effect it, he forlook his Cabin, and lodg'd her in it, charging his Page to attend her with as great diligence, as on his own Person; so that Florina might perceive, that as they entertained her with that Civility, fo they likewife honoured oard; her, by never attempting to violate her Chastity, which she a thousand times e-

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again remembring Prince Medor, the would weep, as it his absent Idea, had a regal Prerogative to create her Tears;

many bitter Sighs she likewise Ecchoed

forth, and blam'd the unfortunate Fater for investing her with this disastrous Accident. In her Contemplation, she rumina

steemed more dearer than her Life:

ted upon his Perfections; but again pondering upon his Absence, and her own prefent Misery, she would forthwith burlt into publick Exclamations, curfing the inhumane Destinies for investing her Breat Which the with fuch an Aggravation. Captain perceiving, began most affectionately to comfort her despairing Courage; adding moreover, with the industrious Art of his fluent Rhetorick, that no improbious or malevolent Proceedings should be exercised against her, but such respect should be paid her as was equivolent to her Vertue. But alas, Florina not minding his Words, could reap no benefit by the Anagram of his Speeches; but still most bitterly bewail'd her Misfortune, lying proftrate in her Cell of Misery: where leaving her with the Captain of the Pinace which resolved to transport her for Constant tinople, we will commit her to the favour

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ble Occurrence of Fortune, and return to

Plivio and Merfilva.

But , she Prince Plivio being informed of his Cousin's proceedings, and of the fortunate Success he had received in his Amours, began to conceive fome Motions of Hope, by the means of the Lady Atbelia, to obtain his defired Mersilva: Upon which Foundation he accourred himself in white. Sattin, cut upon white Damask, and went to the Court; but being inform'd she was with the Queen, the Lady Atbelia, and other Ladies, hunting in the Forrest, he immediately mounted his Courfer, and with a fwift pace posted thither; where no fooner arrived, but hearing the shrill Cry of the Hounds, and the loud founding of the Horns, thinking the Huntimen were on the Foot of the Game, being a defirous Spectator, but more zealous to behold the Beauty of the fair Mersilva, with an earnest Resolution made his Jennet advance: where traverfing the Thickets, we will for a while leave them, and discourse of out still the Adventures which happened to the

> In the midst of the Game it so chanced, that the Deer which they chased, escap'd from their fight; and the Troops of Knights

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and Ladies dispers'd themselves to attrap him; amongst the rest, there was a young Cavalier named Blithion, which a long time had burned with Affection for the bu Princess Mersilva, and could never reap at he ny fit opportunity to disclose himself, the sha by all means fought to sequester her from the Company. At last Fortune determining with her Beauty to administer a treache rous Accident, did by her Influence cause the harmless Princess to strayfrom the fight of her Associates; where ranging discontentedly, as if her Courage had been al ready vanquished by Despair, was at last most unfortunately met by this Blithion, who being exceedingly transported with this News, giving Spurs to his Horse, and Speed to his Courage, in a short space o vertook her, where with these indecent Words, he impudently faluted her.

' Madam! I have a long time endured many Millions of Perplexities, which your Divine Beauty hath created; and

I hope fince Deltiny is fo favourable as to prefent my Eyes with fo fweet an Ob-

ject, that you will be pleased to grant my Affection the fruition of my ardent De

fires; and let my Breaft enjoy those Hear venly Pleasures of your amorous Embra

attrap ces, without which, you will fully Ac-

for the but being moved at his fond Speeches, the but being moved at his immodesty, dying reap at her Cheeks with a Vermillion Bluth, very

olf, the sharply return'd him this Answer.

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mbra ces merits.

Sir! if your vicious felf had been ever train'd up in the School of Vertue, you would have tempered your Words with Discretion, and not so lavishly presumed to offend a chast Ladies Ears with fuch Obscenity: but since your sottish Tongue hath uttered that which cannot be recalled, know, impudent Villain, that I abhor thy Suit, as the utter prejudice of my unspotted Honour, and detest thy self, as the inhumane Actor of my immortal Degradation: therefore with fpeed depart, and instantly bid adieu to your abrups Folly; otherwise I will acquaint the King of thy lascivious Enterprize, and instigate him to reward thy Offence. with the deferved punishment of thy de-

Blithion, nothing dismayed at this Answer, but rather encreased the Flames of his lascivious Desire; instantly prosecuted his Suit in this manner.

Madam, fland not so much on your

'Punctilio's of Disdain; but rather consider with your self where you now are;

for at present you are destitute from the

Court, and of Affistance; so that your

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'Honour and Life is at my disposal; and to inform you of my Resolution, I will

not be denyed with Refufals, nor deluded

by Delays; for in spight of Fortune,

I must fatisfie my Love, and reap the enjoyment of my long defired expecta-

tion: therefore, Madam, pray readily

consent, and surnish your Tongue no more with your elegant Expressions of

Coyness; otherwise you will enforce me after Enjoyment, to use you with such

Barbarity, as my Nature would scarce proffer to your lovely Sex, much less to

you, Madam, whom I did ever adore:

Come, Madam, I believe you want as

much Courting as some Widows doe;

which I'll inform you of their Expecta-

Sings. He that would win a Widows Heart,

must bear up briskly to her;

She loves the Lad that's free and

She lowes the Lad that's free and but hates the formal Wooer. (smart,

Merfilva greatly aftonish'd at him, began exceedingly to weep, and fighing as if her Breaft

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Breast would rend in sunder with insupportable Grief, continually invoking the Divine Powers to revenge her Quarrel, and to shelter her from the Rapine of this immodest Knight: at last considering that Silence was a Demonstration of Consent, disdaining ever to stain her Honour, she summoned her angry Muses, and very resolutely with an undauntedness return'd him this Answer.

'Inhumane Knight! fince Reason will "not allay your Cruelty, in permitting me to depart without blemishing my Honour. be affured, that rather than I will once consent to thy lascivious Demand, I will voluntarily be the Instrument of my untimely Martyrdome. Thereupon unsheathing a Poniard which she wore, as a second Lucretia, she resolved to destroy her self: but the devilish Knight enying, wresting it from her hand, prevented her; and catching hold of the Bridle, difmounted her; whereat being overcome with fear, in a Trance fell to the Ground, where metamorphofing her Cherry colour to a pale Complexion, the there lay speechless. but coming again to her self Blirbion proceeded.

Madam, 'tis in vain to relift, where

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there is none to rescue you, yet were Hercules himself present, he should not hinder me of my purpose; for my sensual Ardour cannot be extinguished without accumulating the Roses of your Divine Virginity. Which having ended, Mersilva falling on her Knees, with Tears

trickling down her Cheeks, befeeching

him in these Words.

'Sir! pity the Estate of an innocent Damfel, and rather sheath your Rapier in my Breast, than bereave me of what I esteem more precious than my Life; erect not I beseech you, your Trophies of Pleasure in the violation of my Honour, or depriving the inward Treafure of my unspotted Chastity. But the doleful Confluence of her Tears imbath'd her flattering Tongue in filence, that her exteriour Fortitude permitting her not to decypher her inward Grief, she lay for a while fenceless, as if her Thoughts had been smother'd up in Disconsolateness; when aroufing her forrowful Mind with the Contemplation of approaching Danger, she suddenly started up, and most inhumanely tore the Tresses of her golden Hair, wherewith Nature had gloriously imbellished her; which Tragical Object might

might have moved the most bloudiest Scythian to pity; nay have caused the senceless obdurate Rocks themselves to weep, and have taken compassion upon her de-

plorable Condition.

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But Blithion not moved with Remorfe, but rather burning with inordinate Defire, to extenuate the Fire of his unfatiable Luft, efteemed every minute a Month, before he had perfected his Diabolical Enterprize: so that accepting of no Reason, nor imploration, taking her by the trembling hand, he most viciously began to embrace her; when being ready to make Shipwrack of her Honour, behold, Phinio came galloping very furiously; which Mersilva to her comfort espying, loudly cry'd out, Ah Plivio! as you tender my Affection, and value my Honour, allest your diffressed Marsilva.

your distressed Mersilva, and revenue the devilish Pretence of this inhuman

Monster with the Reward of his and

Punishment.

Plivin perceiving it to be his dear Merfilva, being enflamed with Revenge, inflantly leaping from his Horse, with his Sword drawn, approaching his Enemy, very furiously uttered these Words; Slave and Villain, make ready thy Sword, for them

thou immediately dyest: which words he no sooner pronounced, but in a moment he lodg'd his Sword in the Offender's Breast; where receiving his Reward, and falling gasping to the Ground, Phioio sirst cut off his lascivious Tongue, and then sent his Soul to the Consines of Pluto, to tell Tereus and Tarquin, he was one of their

wicked Disciples.

Which Mersilva with joy perceiving, ran to Plivio, falling first to his feet, and then again arifing, embraced and kist him; when after having given him many hearty Thanks, seconded by showers of Tears, fhe related to him the whole Proceedings; the which when Plivio understood, he esteemed himself extraordinary happy, that the Fates appointed him to arrive in fo fortunate an hour; and so having comfortted his now even comfortless Mersilva, remounting her on her milk-white Courfer, posting together, they resolved to find out the Queen; to whose Presence being arrived, fitting with her Ladies under the pleasant Shades of Fig Trees, whose spacious Leaves kept them from the power of the Suns Influence; to them he gave a Relation of this Adventure, which Mersilva verified, by a fresh shower of pearled

Madam.

Tears, which like Dew on Damask Rofes, distill'd on her forrowfull Cheeks. Which when the Queen, together with her Daughter the Princels Athelia, and the rest of the Ladies understood, they prais'd the Divine Powers, and gave likewife incessant thanks to Plivio, for his undaunted magnanimity, and exceedingly congratulated the Princess Mersilva's prefervation: They left the Forrest, and returned to the Court, where they were no fooner arrived, but the Queen immediately made the King therewith acquainted; who highly Commended Prince Plivio, for his Valour; and in confideration thereof honourably advanc'd him; which adding more hope to Plivio's defired Enterprize, made him not a little rejoyce at the accidental Event of fuch great Fortune; for perceiving himself much in the King and Queen's Favour, and likewise in the Princess Athelia's, in respect of her be't beloved Thalmo; and then beholding his adored Mersilva reap such satisfaction in enjoying his presence; whereupon remaining continually in the Court, he at last found Mersilva, in her Closet, to whom he amorously address himfelf.

'Madam, all alone? a Kiss of your fair Hand for your best Thoughts. Not alone Sir, says she, for my Thoughts are my best Companions; yet my Contemplations are so frivolous, that less than

The Prince being transported to see her in so facetious a Humour, resolved to prosecute his Amours, continued: 'Why fair Mersilva, less than a kiss from your fair Hand, or a smile from those Lips, is in Effect nothing; and Ladies will scarce thank their Lovers with so slender an Affection. Indeed Sir, says she, I'll prove that to the contrary, for they are many times so Effectual, that it raises their Lovers to so great a height of Ambition, that many times they take too much Privilege.

I, but Madam, reply'd Plivia, these are Shadows without Substance; for there is some difference between Pretence, and Performance; for the one

is the others contrary: fo taking up her Hand, he advanced it to his Lips, and kift

it; whereupon with a sharp Rebuke, she

return'd him this Answer.

Sir, I little thought your proceedings would have been to peremptory; for had

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"had I but once judg'd, your Actions would have been of fo large an Extent, s my Absence should have given you an ' utter Denyal.

The Prince seeing her Patience a little moved, thought to ballance his Offence with an humble Answer; and in that man-

ner addressed himself.

' Madam, your Anger carries such a power, that whereever it steers its Course, it fits Triumphant: Had I thought my

Innocent Actions, would have so soon incurr'd your Displeasure, I would have

prevented, by my Care, what has now

happen'd.

Whereunto the Princess Mersilva, replyed, 'I see now, 'tis my favour, which is the occasion of this disorder, therefore to avoid the like for the future, you may, as you came depart, and return when

' you are fent for.

'Madam, reply'd the Prince, if the Demonftrations of my Passion has created in you this displeasure, I beseech you impute it to my Affection, which was the chief occasion; and as a reward of my Crime, inflict on me what punishment you think shall be Equivolent to the Offence.

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The Princess Mersibua hereat blush'd. but in such affectionate manner, as if both Love and Disdain sate on her Cheeks. striving for Supremacy; yet at last considering she had advanc'd her words so far, and feeing the Subject fo small, whereon the had grounded her Anger, instantly departed, leaving poor Plivio opprest with Love; sometimes he would was about her Chamber, crying out, Te Chamber I never be acquainted with your Power but only through those miseries you cast upon me by it ? alas? why do you furnish me with so much Frailty, and yet provoke me to Despair? Then he would Slumber, and in his Droufiness Dream of Mersibua's Cruelty; and in revenge thereof tear his Hair; in which posture he fo long remained, till at last Mersilva returned; who astonish'd to see him there present, forgetting her former Anger, ask'd him pleasantly, What Wind blew him thither? Whereupon ftriving to abolish his Grief, fetching a Sigh, the mildly return'd her this Answer.

Madam, It is your alone Cruelty, which hath created my Sorrows, and if you did not Triumph o'er my Milery, you would with Justice pity my Malady; therefore, Madam, I beseech you he

be not prolix in those Favours you are leas'd to confer on me, but rather let me know my Destiny, whether I shall live your Admirer, or dye your Martyr.

The Princess observing with what fervent Zeal he pleaded, did instantly, as being inspired with Affection, return him

this Answer.

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Prince Plivio, your Valour and Vertue, having combin'd their charming force in the band of Unity, hath long fince in my Breast made way for your Affection, in fuch a manner, that being con-' quer'd by the Aspect of your Magnanimiry. I in all Honour remain yours; and though I have hitherto refrained difcovering of my Affections, yet la just it not to the defect of my benevolence but rather to the Zeal which I had make proof of your Constancy: But 'now I call the Gods to witness, that from 'my Heart I adore none but Phon, which is the bright Morning-Star of my Felicity.

The Prince in Congratulation of this Happiness, very familiarly return'd her

this Rep'y.

Most Divine Mersilva! if my Tongue

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could express, or my mind discover the flourishing and never dying Fidelity, which is imprinted in my Breast, I should acknowledge my felf bound to Nature, and indebted to Art, for enduing me. with fo great a Felicity: But fince the: Creator of my deliverance cannot fufficiently stamp the interiour Characters. of my Cogitations, nor the Discoverer of my Secrets, enough worthily decypher my Affections; yet I beseech you believe that I have grounded my Constancy upon so sure a Foundation, and my Fidelity upon so firm a Resolution, that neither the alluring Events of Profperity, nor the territying Threats of Misfortune can either extenuate by flattering Shadows, or extinguish by frown-'ing Substance. Mersilva hearing his friendly Answer, and Comforted her Senses with the affu-

rance of his Affection, mildly return'd

him this kind Answer.

Dear Plivio, being heretofore a Priloener, I am by your kind Aid and Affiftance set at Liberty; yet when I re-member the Estate of King Samor my Father, I cannot forbear weeping, in that I should so unadvisedly bereave

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ı-'d him of a Daughter; but yet the Unity of our Love hath link'd me to your Affection, and in ruminating on your Vertues, I infuse his Memory in the twist of Oblivion: So that Condemn me not of Disobedience, in being Obedient to your self, nor impute not the Title of inhumane Ignorance to my Charge, in respect it is your Vertues which Unites me to your Affections. And with that, showers of Tears trickled down her Cheeks; which the Prince perceiving, endeavouring to Comfort her, said to her.

Weep not, fair Mersilva, but let now the radient Aspect of our fixed Amours, abandon the residence of Sorrow; let the Memory of our tender Assections, drown the Waves of Discontent; and let the Novelty of our Friendship, triumph over insinuating Disconsolation. The Gods seem to Sympathize our Amity, and Fortune her self, delights to Crown our Friendship: Fair Mersilva! Despair

is the Path-way to Destruction; therefore cheer up your Spirits, and let a plea-

fant Countenance give Sorrow the Overthrow; and think not that my Fami-

Liarity shall prejudice your Estate, or diminish your Grandeur, for then were my

minish your Grandeur, for then were my Sollici-

proaching, which Summon'd Prince Phvio to depart; when taking his Angelical Saint by the Hand, and fixing his Eyes upon the divine mirrour of her Heavenly Beauty, he with a Sigh gave her this Friendly Farewell. Dear Mersitva, I must now be constrai-

ned to leave you to the Chaos of your ruminating Contemplations; but I will

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141 repair to my Closet, and there contrive means for establishing our future Tranquility; fo that till I am again made Fortunate, by enjoying the Excellency of your divine presence, I in all faithfull Affection, take my forrowfull Leave. Merfilva changing her Countenance to a pale Complection, with Tears, made him this Answer. Dear Plivio! as you value my Affection, let your Return be with Expedition; for fear, least wanting your presence, I 'immediately dye in the Contemplation of your absence; therefore at my fin-' cere Request, satisfie my ardent Expe-'ctation; and in recompence thereof, as 'I intend to live in your Favour, fo I re-' folve to dye in your vertuous Affection. Thus with many Sighs at parting, Merfilva went to her Closet; and Plivio betook himself to converse with his Cousin Thalmo, to whom he related the Event of his Fortunate proceedings, and the Prosperous Conclusions of his amorous Enterprize; who being exceedingly fatisfied, ask'd if his Lady were contented to leave the Court and Travel with him:

told him, he had motion'd it to her, and

her Reply was very effectual, that the

would

142 would accompany me, as far as the Confines of the World would permit, or I de. fire. 'Why then, replyed Thalmo, the Princess Athelia and Mersilva, simpathizes in one Agreement, and hath vowed no more, than Athelia desires to perform: To reside here is but Folly, in respect

we are absent from our native Country; and to acquaint any with our Affections

is not proper; therefore let us haften our Departure, and direct our Course to

our own Residence; lest prolixity of time, discover the secrets of our Pre-

tence, and so the beginning of our hopes be crost by Envy, in the bloomy blof-

foms of their Maturity; which to a-

'void, let us with speed through the Woods and Forrests, convey our Ladies from

the fight of any; for if the Report of our Departure reaches the Ears of King

Brylion, he will, without question, use his utmost Severity against us, and ei-

ther deprive us of our Lives or Liberties.

Prince Plivio attentively listned to his Cousin's Exhortations, and allowed well of the Design, which he had contrived for their Retirement; the which the betto accomplish, he defired his Confin

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Thalmo, to acquaint the Princess Aibelia with it, and he would do the like to the Princess Mersilva, to the end, that when the hour of Departure should be assigned, they might put themselves in an Equipage, and get fuch things ready, as might be necessary for their Journey: Upon which Resolution, each departed to his Lady. and in many amorous Terms, declared their Resolutions, and not only discovered their Births, but also their direct Names; the which, when they no fooner understood, were extreamly satisfied, and to their Resolutions, very soon condescended.

Bythistime our two Princes, having apparent proofs of each others Affections, and burning with Defire to fet forward their Enterprizes; instantly appointed the next Night following, at the outer Gate, betwixt Twelve and One, they would attend the happy Arrivals of their dear Princesses; which Warning, tho' short, seemed so sweet to the Ladies Imaginations, that they very his pleasantly deluded the time in familiar well Discourse; till at last, the hour as they ved thought being come, and no Princes apbet- pear'd, they metamorphos'd their Mirth, usin to Melancholiness, and their Joy to Discontent :

The Garden of Love, and 144

content : But, alas! these Ladies were Ladie both deceived; for the Dial of their Fan- Estat cies, told the Hour of Assignation, before behouthe Horologe sounded, and the Clock of his or their Imaginations struck Twelve and One, he e'er the Essence of Twelve, far less ming Eleven, was in Election to be finished: focial yet in fuch forrowfull manner they past ! 'I the time, till at last their two Princes ar- I dall riv'd, giving a shrill Holla, which served 1 Co for a Watch-word; which the Ladies, to f any their Delight, no sooner heard, but re- star assuming their Courage, and a Vermilli- ous on Blush taking possession of their Milkwhite Cheeks, they in their travelling we Apparel descended; at whose glorious 'fice Appearance, our two Princes advanc'd, 'not and faluted them; no words could they Bul utter, because their Tongues, by the power W of Love, were devoted to Silence, but all with that pass'd vere Volleys of Sighs; which sindi redoubling, each other strove which vatel should first Unite each others Heart, with lace the Sympathy of Affection. But in short, they and in a moment, they heard in the Palace a great noise, as if all the Court had been in an Uproar; which so amazed taking them, that they knew not how to fave med themselves, nor where to convey their lope Ladies

vere Ladies; till at last Thalmeno knowing their an. Estate desperate, and perceiving it now fore behooved him to cast at all, either to lose of his own Life, or his dear Athelia, whom ne, he esteemed far more precious; re-assuless ming his Courage, he to his trembling As. ed: sociates said as followeth.

cast Prince Plivio, this is no time for us to dally with, therefore with undaunted courage lead forth your Lady, and if any presume to stop your Passage, in re-stantly sheath your Sword in the persidiilli- ous Slave's Breast; and without prolixililk- ty fend his fervile Soul to the Commoning 'wealth of Pluto, for a meritorious Sacriious 'fice: And you illustrious Ladies, fear c'd, 'nothing, for your Vertues are a sufficient hey 'Bulwark for your preservation.

Which said, they went hand in hand,

t all without finding any to resist 'em; and nich finding the Porter in his Lodge asleep, prinich vately took from him the Keys of the Pawith lace; when unbolting the outward Gate, ort, they without making anynoise issued forth, Pa. where they found their Pages, each with a had Horse, attending them. Glad of this News, zed taking their Ladies behind them, they imfave mediately mounted, and with speed galheir loped through the Streets; where in a

dies

short time having past both Town and Book, Suburbs, they at last began to consider what Course to take; fearing that when the King missing the Princes, he should with all possible Celerity make speed for their Apprehension, they finally resolv'd to go through the Woods and Forrests, the betrer to shelter them from the fight of any which should presume to follow 'em: by vertue of which Resolution, they made that night such speed, that before morning they found themselves very near 20 Leagues from the Court. The next morning as they were swiftly riding by a Forrest's side, through the Branches they espied a very pleasant Cottage; which both Athelia and Mersilva desirous to enter, requested their Princes to alight and accompany them, who glad in any thing that might procure their Ladies refreshment. thereunto condescended; so leaving their Pages with their Horses, they enter the Forrest, directing their way to the Cottage; where they were no fooner arrived, but thinking to find some Shepherdess, instead thereof, beheld a very beautiful young Man, which feemed to be overcome with Grief, fitting very forrowfully flumbering on a green Bank, having a Pook,

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and Book, Pen, Ink and Paper close by him; which hearing the found of their Voices, when which hearing the Spirits same and felured ould outing up his Spirits, came and faluted for them.

"Renowned Knights, and fair Ladies: Admire not at my Sorrows, nor wonder at my Disconsolateness; for it is powerfull Fortune which hath invested me with this miserable Calamity; but to extirpate his Tyranny, and to triumph over his Usurpation, I have here folitarily retired my felf to this Grove, to live, tho? not so well contented as I could wish, yet fo well pleased as one in my Estate can receive; my rural Cottage affords no Dainties, but Poverty; yet such as it is, if you please to accept, I shall render my felf most fortunate, and in whatever it comes short of your expectation, I will supply in freeness of Service and Thanks.

Our Princes and Ladies perceiving his good Humour, and the Nature of his kind Proffers, thinking themselves far intebted o his Bounty, Prince Palma very in andly

return'd him this Answer.

Sir, the Friendship which in our Travels you are pleafed to afford us, are of that extent, that we find our felves fo far in Arrears, that we absolutely confess OUL

our Weakness to be such, as our Tonguethe tv Recompence for your unmerited F. Herb

vours; nevertheless, according to thand h Actions of Reason, and Rules of Amiry desty we return you very hearty Thanks for the I

A this your extraordinary Humanity, assu with ring you, that if ever any favourable cong Subject presents, wherein, in honour the Swe may partly retaliate your Civility, you liarity shall find us generally so willing, as the venly affects the rest of the liar to the second state of the liar to the rest of the liar to the liar

effects thereof shall no ways tax us of In to co

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gratitude.

Which was no fooner pronounced, but he w the Stranger taking the two Ladies by the dily, hands, requested them, and the two Prin-Lute ces to enter his Hermitage; where he prefented them with a Banquet of dryed Figs.

Line
Dates, and Apricocks, with other Fruits
as that Country did afford; which being
ended, he asked the Ladies if they would
They please to recreate themselves in the Gar-Ont den the which they very thankfully act No cept off: fo the Princes leading them, Three and he Stranger shewing the way, forth The they went; where passing through a fra The grant Walk, befet with Fir-Trees, they last attain'd the Entrance of the Garden where they were no fooner arrived, but

ongue the two Princesses after having viewed the a a jurisdictions Flowers, and the fragrant of F. Herbs, they to avoid the Sun's brightness, to thand heat, with as much Celerity as Momity desty would permit, betook themselves to ake so the Bowers, where their beloved Princes assume with divine Salutes and Complements, arable congratulated them their happy Welcome: onout the Stranger viewing their innocent Family, you liarity, immediately wept, as if those heads the venly Objects had some regal Prerogative of In to command his Tears; but to drive away his Sorrows which his Passion had created, but he went to his Cottage, and returning specy the dily, brought with him an harmonious Prin-Lute; the which after having tuned, join-epre-ing his excellent Voice, he sung these Figs Lines.

Wake all ye dead, what ho! what ho!

How soundly they sleep, whose Pillows lie low:

They mind not poor Lovers that walk about.

On the Deeks of the World, in Storms of Lovers

y ac No whispering now, nor glance can pass,

nem, Through Wicket, or through Panes of Glass

They lie ctosein the Church, or in the Church-yard:

They lie ctosein the Church, or in the Church-yard:

In every Grave make room, make room,

For the World's at an end, and I come, I come.

bue

The State is now Love's For, Love's Foe, Has feiz'd on his Arms, his Quiver and his Bow He has pinion'd his Wings and fetter'd his feet Because he made way for poor Lovers to meet But oh sad Fate! bis Judge was old, Hearts cruel are, when blond grows cold. No Man being young, his Process could draw Ob Heavens! that Love should be subject to Law Let Lovers go wooe the dead, the dead, Lye two in a Grave, and two in a Bed.

No fooner had he ended these Lines but he instantly began afresh to weep, and to determining to affuage his Sorrows, with a Complement he presently departed walking a distance from them in a fair Summer-house; the which our Royal Couples perceiving, began immediately to furmife that he was in Love with some cruel Lady, whose rigorous Repulse was the Mo tive of his Passion; but pondering on is Grief by their own Sorrows, and his Difconfolateness by their own late Distemper, they all bewailed his Misfortune, and compassionated his Affliction; lamenting that ever their Arrival should renew his Grief or brid that afresh into his Memory which reved his Torment. At length Athelia and Mersilva rose up, which That

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Foe, meno and Palma no fooner perceived, but is Bow they followed them; where palling along his feet by a stately Pine-Tree, they upon the o meet Bark thereof espied some Characters to be curiously carved, and approaching near, they read these Words. draw

The Idea of Fhrina thall never depart

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Which Characters perusing, and pondering what the Lady therein mencioned might be, they immediately went and advertifed Thalmeno and Palma, who were walking at some distance, who not a little admiring to hear the Name of Florina there decypher'd, began to conjecture that he might be Prince Medor: in respect whereof, to fatisfie their ardent Defire, they with their Ladies went towards him, where being entred the Bower, Thalmeno delivered himself in these Words.

Sir, I befeech you in Friendship to certifie me, whether you are acquainted with

the Princels Florina, Daughter unto the

"King of Namidia; and also whether you

'know Prince Medor, Son anto the King

of Biafara.

The Stranger no fooner heard pronounced the facred Name of Florina, but he instantly fell to the Ground; when closing H.4

his Eyes, one would have thought he refolv'd as then to take his Farewell of the World: the which our Princesses no sooner beheld, but they so employed their best Skill, that in a short time he recover'd; and raising himself, he in a sighing manner breath'd out these Words.

'Ah Florina! whose Name infuseth 'Life to my weak Senses! then fetching a ' deep Sigh, faid ' Most Generous Knights 'and Beautifull Ladies, I have had the ' Happiness to be acquainted with the Princels Florina, and am that unfortunate Medor which you enquire for; unfortunate I may well declare, in being absent from Florina, the Memory of whose Divine Beauty hath this many Months been the Goddess of my Devotions; therefore I befeech you, if you can give me any Information of that worthy Person, I would beg you in all humanity to eafe my mind; and to congratulate your Civility, I will for ever remain Your affectionate Servant.

To which Thalmeno replyed, Prince Medor as you have with that Civility received us, so I will no longer conceal from you those which are your Debtors; I am Thalmeno, Son and Heir to the King

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of Cicilia, and this Prince, my Cousin, Son to the King of Egypt; who some two years fince refolved to travel, having departed from my Father's Court, dire-'Aing our Course to Africa, and journeying three days alone, being destitute of a Guide, and unskilfull of the Country, by misfortune strayed into an unknown Defart; but Fortune willing to intermix our bitter Sorrows with some pleasures, conducted us fortunately to a beautifull Castle, which entring, we found the Princels Florina thereof the desolate Inhabitant, who having forfaken her Father's Court, vowed to remain, untill the 'joyfull Return of your Princely felf; therefore Prince Medor, if you please to honour as with your good Company, we are bound for Cicilia, and immediately upon our Arrivals, with leave of the Powers Divine, we will conduct you to the melancholly place of her folitary

Retirement.

Prince Medor, being very well pleased with this fortunate News, very freely accepted of their Proffer, and promited to accompany them; and with so chearfull a Countenance, that in his mortiferous Spirit it semed the absent Idea of Florina

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had infused exact Vitality: but at last fix ing his Eyes upon the fweet Object of the Ladies Beauty, and pondering on his divine Florina, he earneftly demanded of Thalmeno who those beautifull Ladies were, and what private Occasion induced them to Travel; who related to him the whole Circumstance of their Proceedings, and of their Desire to travel to Cicilia: he thereupon having complemented them in a very high manner, voluntarily proffer'd to conduct them thro' the Vineyards, and Champion Countreys to the Sea-fide; the Princes and Ladies being very well pleafed, prepared inftantly to depart, where they were no fooner arrived, but Prince Medor very fortunately met with a Sip of War of Madagascar, which belonging to Duke Alphonso his Uncle, was by tempestuous Weat ther and contrary. Winds forced there to take Harbour. Glad of this unexpected Opportunity, they immediately contracted a Bargain with the Master for their Passage, and with a favourable Wind they On the Seas folong refailed for Cicilia. omained, that after many tempestuous Storms, they at last safely attain'd Gibralter, the Entrance of the Mediterranean Streights, and so with Joy keeping on their Course for

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for the defired Island of Cicilia, they were towards night, very quietly becalmed, in fuch a manner, that their Ship made no way, but only floated upon the Face of Neptune, according as the flackness of the Current drave her; fo that at last keeping good Watch, as the third Glass was in election to be finished, the Master walking aloft upon the spare Deck, heard the noise of Oars plowing in the Entrails of Thetis; whereat resolving to prevent the worst, he mounted the main Shrows, directing still his Eyes by his Ears, fo long, till at last he espied a very stout Galley swiftly making towards them; at which unlook'd for Accident, he with his filver Whiftle. alarm'd the whole Company in the Ship, who quitting their Hammocks, mounted the upper Deck, admiring exceedingly what this unaccustomed Accident meant; but the Mafter shewing them the occasion, they instantly with Heroical Resolutions, fetch'd forth their Muskets, and provided all things which might be any ways necelfary for a Combate: amongst the rest, the Master Gunner burning with Desire to shew some Experience of his Praise-worthy Art, requested the Captain to permit him to make a fliot or two towards them:

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whereat condescending, a couple of half Piece of Ordnance were provided, and discharged off with such Fury, that it not only made a Massacre amongst the miserable Slaves, but also at so sudden a motion made the Commanders themselves tremble, in fuch a manner, as forced them to pull in their Oars, let down their Sails, and to fland upon their Guards: which the Mafter perceiving, and knowing they would linger till the next day, having appointed each his Place, and in his Ablence gave the chief Officers their Charge, he immediately went down to the Cabin, to comfort our almost comfortless Lovers, who alas! lay in a posture of Despair; for they no sooner heard the Report of the Shot, but they generally thought it came from some near harbouring Enemy; they were all in an Extafie of Sorrow, blaming Fortune for his Frowns, and exclaiming against their Miseries: Which the Master perceiving, comforted them in the best manner he could, and advis'd them to be cheerfull; adding moreover, that there was no Danger, and in the morning he did nor doubt of being Conqueror: whereupon our three. Princes comforted their two forrowfull Ladies, who began to doubt

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of their own, and the Princes Safeties: which created many Tears that distilled down their Cheeks; which our Princes perceiving, and being very eager to purchase their Freedom, solemnly departed. the Cabin, and thrust themselves amongst the Mariners; whom most Couragioully they animated with fuch Exhortations, that they generally protested to Sacrifice their Lives, for the Establishing of their Tranquilities. So that when Night was expired, and Day began to draw. near, our Masters and Princes so ordered their Affairs, that the Flags and Streamers were abroad playing with the Wind, and all things ready in their proper Order; the Master upon the Poop with his Silver Sword, to wheafe them to the Lee-ward. and the Trumpets ready at the Beck, to found the first On-set: on the contrary part, the Galley sported her self in the Pride of her Warlike Jollity, and with a valorous Resolution came towards them; when instantly the Wind began to afresh, our Master, by the consent of the three Princes, went by their short Sails within Cannon shot, resolving to attend their coming, and with Honour to fight it out: The which the Galley Slaves perceiving.

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began to cry Victoria, thinking that they had already yielded. But, alas! they were deceived of their Hopes; for thinking to Board them, the Ship in a moment poured in her small Shot, as thick as Hail, and therewithall gave fuch a Broad-fide, which in the Galley made fuch a rattling Thunder, that their Rails, Penets, yea Hatches, and all began to advance to the Skies: There might you have feen fome dangerously wounded, which lay gasping their last; some already flain, imbruing themselves in their Fellows Blood; and some, whose Heads flying from their Bo-. dies, went to advertise their Friends of their wofull Tragedies.

The Captain and Commanders of the Galley, raging at the unexpectedness of receiving so hot an Entertainment, disdaining to dye in their Debts, bad their Gunners give Fire; where betwixt them was so furious a Fight, that it was hard to judge on which side Victory would incline: But when the fatal day was almost sinished, wherein many had lost their Lives, the Galley most dangerously received such a Shot, between Wind and Water, that all within it made such a hideous Cry; which our Princes understanding, instantly

fantness

they instantly conceived some Hopes of Victory; whereupon they afresh let flye they their Cannon; which made fuch Breainkches in the Galley, that they feeing no nent Hail, hope whereon to relye, immediately yielded: Which our Princes and Comfide, pany perceiving, for sudden joy gave a great shout for the Conquest of so Faling yea mous a Victory; when inffantly they, hoithe. fted out their Shallop, and were in great me ing Parley, which of them should go Coming mander: Thalmeno he willingly biffered and ; his Service, and Palma he vowedfinot to Bo- . stay behind; but Prince Medor, seeing of . his Affociates in Contention, stept in, and furiously protested, they should both stay with their Ladies, for he would only go he Master of the Ship. They hearing of of his voluntary Refolution, gave Sentence he should: Whereupon, with a noise m of Trumpets, away went Prince Medor, to and Thalmeno and Palma returned down 1to the Cabin, where their Ladies came stir reciprocally to congratulate them of their great and fortunate Victory; where fo d joyfull a Meeting betwixt them was demonstrated, that their minds, which before swimmed in the Ocean of Despair, did now float upon the Waves of Plea-

fantness; for their pale Complexions, were metamorphos'd to cherry Countenances; and their mournfull Eyes which were almost drowned in Tears, did now clear up with Vivacity; and in short, all received fuch Satisfaction, as my abrupt Pen cannot Delineate. Prince Medor being being now near the Galley, at last very resolutely entred his Men, without finding any Opposition; who feeing they were all hid, by found of Trumpet Commanded their Appearance: Who came forth in a trembling manner, and feeing their Enemies with their Swords drawn, immediately fell on their Faces and defired Pardon: Upon which Submission, Prince Medor Commanded his Men, that upon pain of Death, not to hurt them, either in Body or Goods: Which the Captain understanding, came forthand begg'd his Life, which Prince Medor instantly granted : Whereupon, after he informed of whence the Galley was, and to whom he belonged, he to the Prince addressed himself in these Words.

Although it grieves me, couragious Knight, to be conquered by any, yet fince my Fortune must needs endure the Frowns

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Frowns of War, I rejoyce in my Happinels to become Tributary to so worthy
a Person; therefore Noble Sir, since
you have with such heroical voluntariness spared our Lives, I must acquaint
you, that within this next Cabin,
there is resident a vertuous Lady, whom
Fortune hath made our Prisoner; her

Extraction I know not, but if outward our Deportment does describe inward Qua-

'lities, I presume she is some Person of noble Descent; her Behaviour, though in Adversity, is such, that as she carries

her perplexity with a modest Countenance, so she disdains to render her self

Tributary to the Infidelity of Fortune.

Prince Medor no sooner understood this unexpected News, but burning with Defire to know what this Lady might be, very friendly commanded the Captain to bring him to her presence; where he was no sooner arrived, but he beheld this dolefull Lady imbathing her self in Tears, lying prostrate on the sloar, with her Visage over-vail'd, and being as it were in a Lethargy; thinking that the first that entred was the Harbinger of Death, and the inhumane Instrument of her untimely Martyrdome: but behold, it sell out otherwise:

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wife; for when she expected he would sheath his Sword in her innocent Breast, why even then he took her by the Lilly hand, and with an amiable Voice uttered these Words.

'Arise, fair Lady! for your Life and 'Liberty is granted you: whereat in a moment, as being acquainted with the Voice, she started, and perceiving it was Prince Medor which pronounced that welcome Sentence, being transported with an extraordinary Passion, she fell into a Prince Medor perceiving this tragical unexpected Accident, failed not to employ his best endeavour for her recovery; and so thinking to raise her up, by chance the Veil falling from her beautifull Face, he perceived it to be his fair Florina; but being aftonished, he doubted the fincerity of his Eyes, whilst a second Surview of her Person confirm'd his Belief, and finding her to be effentially his unlook'd for Florina, with a swift Refolution advancing his Pace, he with open Arms went and 'embrac'd her; where fo delightfull a Meeting was betwixt them demonstrated, that from fo pleasing a folace it was meer Sacriledge to separate them; Prince Medor reflecting upon the Divine would reaft, Lilly ttered in a the t was twel-with into a this

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Divine Object of Florina's Beauty, he fo found his Mind devoted to filence, that the review of her cherry Countenance wrapped up his Senses in an Extasse of Contentation, which forced him into a Trance: the which Florina perceiving, melting as it were into Tears of Sorrow, with her fair hands began to corroborate his Temples; so that her sovereign Breath infusing Vitality to his sickly Senses, made him again re-assume his wonted Courage; when inviting his wandering Tongue to display the Socrets of his wavering mind, taking Florina by her Alablaster hand, he pronounced these Words.

Dear Florina, neight I finish my days in thy Embraces, or now facrifice the remainder of my Life before thy Divine Deity, I should not only account my self favoured of the Saints in affording me such good Fortune, but also esteem my Enterprizes more then happy, in being ratisfied by the Synod of the Gods themselves: but Dear Florina, since the blessed Sight of thy lovely Self have so freed me from the Chains of Bondage, and from the Fetters of Despair, I here present you with my Service, Constancy, and Fidelity; and as I have long since

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dedicated my self to your Divine Beauty, fo I resolve to live and dye your faithfull

and never wavering Servant to the end.

Florina.

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Which heavenly Speeches Florina no fooner heard, but overshadowing her Lilly Cheeks with a Crimson dye; having imbath'd her tender Mind in Love, and her Resolutions in Affection; she in her delicate hand taking her Handkerchles to wipe away those pearled Tears from her lovely Countenance, with an amiable, yet forrowful Voice, she returned him this Answer.

Dear Prince Medor were I acquainted with that friendly God which ratified thy Freedom, or with that favourable Saint which re-conducted thee to my presence; my sincere Congratulation should display it self with what Constant

cy I attended your coming, and now with what Amity I honour thy Arrival:

therefore welcome Dear Prince to thy forrowfull Foring, and Millions of Thanks

to gracious Mars for investing me Captive to so fortunate a Conqueror. Since

thy Departure I have lived most comfort-

les, yet in enjoying once more thy pre-

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ortreice, ience, I now bury the memory of all former Griefs in the Grave of Oblivion: invincible Affection bath so captivated my Spirits, and conquered my Senses, that only I now live to respect dear Medor, and in spight of all Fortune's Effects. resolve to dye in the League of his desi-

red Friendship.

The Prince pondering upon her affectionate Words, not able to contain such ardent Expressions, cry'd out, 'Ah Dear Florina! whose fight infuses Vitality to

my amazing Senses; banish now from thy Breast the Memory of Sorrow, and let Contentment flourish in thy mind;

for now before the Shrine of thy facred felf, upon the Altar of Fidelity, Medor presents thee with so complear a Portion

of undaunted Friendship, as you can any ways desire, or the God's distribute:

and Dear Florina, fince Fortune hath so ordained it, that now contrary to my-ex-

pectation, you are made my happy Prisoner, Know Empress of my Thoughts, and Angel of my Imaginations, that in

most honourable Company I am bound for Cicilia, where as foon as arrived, I

will most willingly solemnize our: Nup-

tials, and ratific my beautifull Florina to

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be the fole Governess of my Breast's ex'

pectation. Florina no fooner heard the Harmony of his Speeches, but faid, 'Think not dear Medor, that having long fince Devoted my felf yours, I will now Repent me of my Enterprize, but rather I be-' feech you Consider, at least, if my Prayers may gain acceptance in your Amity, that Florina, esteems the Seal of our Nuptials, to be the entrance of her Fortunacy, lea and the uniting of our Affections, the ' very Quintessence of her Felicity; therefore I beseech you delay no time, but rather advance thy Enterprize; to the end, that Prince Medor receiving the chief Solace of his Breaft, Florina may reciprocally enjoy the defired Object of her immortal Affections. they To which the Prince replyed, 'Why out c

then my fair Florina, make ready for thy Departure; to the end, that I may inform my Princely Affociates of our Happiness, and so prosecute our Voyage to Cicilia. To Cicilia! faid Horina. And then the pearled Tears trickled down her Vermillion Cheeks; which Medor perceiving, defired her to let him know the occasion of that sudden Passion. To which fhe

the replied, 'Since I first heard you Repeat the Name of Cicilia, my present Joys doth afresh put me in mind of my former Mileries: For dear Prince, having for thy fake, sequestred my self from all Company, and built up my Residence in a desolate Castle; there unexpectedly arrived two Foreign Knights from Cicilia, who in reward of fome small Favour I afforded them, protested very folemnly to refearch thee out, at least, if the Confines of Africa did contain thee. Prince Medor reply'd, 'And have you not fince heard of their Adventurous Proceedings? No, reply'd Florina, which much troubles me, in respect they were Compassionate of my Sorrows, and Admirers of my Affecti-Thus with most pleasant a course hey deluded the Time, till Floring rush'd out of her Cabin, and taking him by the Hand, said, 'Come dear Prince, let us depart from hence, and Crown our Miseries with the Triumph of Content; Fortune you know, is variable, therefore let us slip no time, while opportunity doth present; only this I do request of you, that these miserable Slaves, who by your conquering Valour are made Captives,

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Captives, may without prejudice to themselves or Goods, have free per-

'mission to depart safely.

Prince Medor highly Commended her for projecting fo Charitable a Vertue, very freely thereunto Condescended, and so difiniffing his Prisoners, he Commanded his Shallop to be made ready, and with a noise of Trumpets chearfully departed: but long he floated not on the Surges of Thetis, till a favourable Gale re-conducted him fafe to his Ship, where entring and enquiring for the Princes; Answer was instantly made him, that they were in the Cabin, recreating the Ladies with Mufick; whereupon leaving Florina for a while in another Cabin, he went to the Princes and Ladies, to participate of their Exquisite Harmony: The which, The meno and Palma no fooner perceived, by laying their Instruments aside, each par ticularly with his Lady, went and congra tulated his fafe Return, asking him the News of his Success: To which he re ply'd, 'Princes and Ladies, Instead of rich Prize, I have met with an Inestima

not be cast up by the whole industrious Science of Arithmetick, nor by the noble

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ce to Art of Algebra. No? replyed Athelia and per- Mersilva, Why then we believe you have taken all the Mint of Mexico, or esse ind her gross'd the Minerals of Peru. Indeed very Ladies, replyed the Prince, that I have nd for not, and yet I divinely rejoyce in anded possessing so Sacred a Present. Wherewith a unto Palma and Thalmeno reply'd, 'Then arted: we believe Prince Meder, you have reges of ceived some Information of the Princess lucted 'Florina, or else seen the resembling Idea g and of her beautifull Perfections. r was Prince hearing the divine Name of his Florina repeated, could not refrain pro-Mu ducing some Smiles: So stepping to the for a Cabin where he had left her, taking her to the by the Hand, he presented her to the whole Company; at which Thalmeno and Palma reflecting their Observations d, be upon her Angelical Beauty, presently ch par Conjectured her to be the admired Floongratina; but not able to ratific their suspense and the sted Assurance, looking one on the ohere ther, durst not adventure to Congratu-ad of late her by the name of Florina; on the estimation other side Florina sixing the Influence of of can her Speculation upon their Aspects, imistrious mediately judg'd them to be Trains no ana

and Palma; but at last, after many Of servations, Thaimeno began to believe, that it was absolutely fair Florina; upon which, kiffing her hand, he congratulated her.

' Madam, you are thrice welcome to ' joyfull Thalmeno, and Millions of Thanks to kind Fortune, for investing my Eyes with the Object of fuch unexpected Happiness! Florina hereat colouring her. Cheeks with a Crimfon Blush, returned

him this Answer.

'Thanks Noble Prince, for your heroical Goodness; and more than fortunate am I, to be the effential Subject of your Prince Palma here interrupt-Favours. ing her, went likewise and kissed her fair hand, and congratulated her; where betwixt these three Majesticks of Affection, fuch joyfull Expressions of Friendship was repeated, that Athelia and Mersilva sitting attentively in a corner, (unfeen of Florina) admired what this unlooked-for Object was; for first entertaining some Sparks of Jealousie, they conjectur'd this beautiful Favourite was come on purpose frustrate their Expectations : but inflarely ballancing the Fidelity of their Princes

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Princes by their own Affections, they both thought in point of Friendship, and to satisfie their Curiosity, to advance and congratulate her: but Prince Medor standing at some distance, and conjectured by the change of their Countenances, that their Thoughts were in some disorder, interrupted them in this manner.

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'Fair Princesses, To be impartial, this fine Lady which is here presented to your Eyes, is my admired Florina, whom

I honour and adore, as the Goddess of my Felicity. Athelia and Mersilva hearing this, and infusing into their Minds the unlook'd-for Event of this happy Accident, demonstrating by their smiling Aspects, that their Hearts were inwardly filled with Joy and Gladness, return'd him this Answer.

Prince Medor we heartily congratulate you, and do exceedingly rejoyce, that the Celestial Deity hath crown'd all our Affections, after our Sorrows; and that Fortune hath smil'd upon you, in the happy Arrival of your Divine Florina! Whereupon, they each of them faluted her, and congratulated her happy Welcome. Many affectionate Sighs, sweet

Smiles, and piercing Countenances, were on each side, with Demonstrations of Joy for Prince Medor's and the Lady Florina's happy Meeting. And now having finished their Congratulations, they wished themselves safely landed upon the Shores of Cicilia: the which the Master of the Ship perceiving, failed not to the utmost of his power to shorten their Sea-faring Voyage: so that hoisting one more Sail, and plowing through the Entrails of the Sea, they at last in a radiant day, very fortunately espied the Coasts of Cicilia: which the Master perceiving, went immediately and advertised our Royal Company of this fortunate News; which no looner was reported to them, but instantly leaving their amorous Discourse, they very chearfully, being defirous of that long with'd-for fight, mounted the upper Deck, by which time the Wind continually freshing, they were almost approaching the Shore; the Prospect of which so revived their fickly Senses, that Prince Thalmeno at last seeing the Ship at an Anchor, commanded the Boatswain to set them on thore.

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In which time the three Princesses went to their Cabinets, and adorned themselves in a very rich manner, that they rather resembled Celeitial Nymphs, than Humane Beauties, and facred Queens than Terrestrial Princesses. The happy hour of their Departure being come, hand in hand, like Saints of Felicity, they rushed forth, presenting themselves to their Princes; who attending their Arrival, received them with extraordinary Demonstrations of Joys Then generally taking leave of their Company, and the Shaliop being ready, they most gallantly departed; at whose Farewell the Mafter gave fuch a thundering Volley of Ordnance, that the rebounding Eccho thereof drave the harbouring Cicilians into an Affrightment; presupposing that some foreign Enemy was come to invade them, that in whole Troops they directed their Course to the Sea-side; upon whose obdurateSands with Drums beating and Colours flying, they attended their landing.

Our Princes perceiving this unexpected warlike Assembly, could not imagine the occasion of this Hostility; but to prevent the worst, they commanded a Flag of

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Truce:

Truce to be demonstrated, and so drew near the Shore: Which the Cicilians espying, they desired to know of what Country they were, and what this unaccustomed Alarm meant, and go advanced to prevent their Landing. But Prince Thalmeno not minding their fleurishing Bravado, commanded the Boatswain to set 'em on shore: which no sooner was effected, but they congratulated their Ladies safe Arrival, and each taking his Lady by the Hand, they very Couragiously went forwards. The Cicilians thought to have had some hot Skirmish, but instead thereof, meeting with this weak Company, they dragg'd their Ensigns with Laughter in the Dust, which before were Displayed in the Air. The chief Commanders, out of Curiofity, defired to learn what this Tragi-Comedy meant, advanced their Pace towards our Royal Company; where glancing their Eyes upon the Beau-ty of the Ladies, they at last fixed their fight upon the Princes, and apparently perceived their Soveraign young Prince Thalmeno, to be there present : At which . unexpected fight, they threw away their Weapons of War, and went and proftra-

pro trated themselves at his Feet. Which Prince Thalmeno perceiving, after having gratified their loyal affectionate Humility, with Thanks, commanded them to muster up their Forces, and fo to accompany him, and his Princely Affociates to the Palace. Which News was no fooner noifed amongst the Camp, but they were all ready at their Arms, and gallantly march'd forwards; the King by this time was advertised of the welcome News of the Prince his Son's Arrival, and inflantly commanded three stately rich Coaches to be fent, to conduct him, and his Royal Companions to the Court; which was done with fuch speed, that in a shore time they drew near the Suburbs of Melanay which being the Capital City of Cicilia, was fo adorned on both fides the way, with rich Tapestry Hangings on the Windows and Balconies, Cannons and Enfigns planted on the Bulwark and Towers, in fo splendant a manner, that their outward Pomp was a demonstration of their inward Affections. The King his Father being certified of his near approach, accompanied with the green, with a great Concourse of Ladies and Ca-

Valiers, very Majestically went forth to meet them, where before the Port Royal, he was graciously received, in such a manner, as befitted his Royalty; the Queen likewise embraced him, and with joyfull Tears congratulated his Welcome. ving ended the Ceremony, with their beautifull Ladies, they in great Magnificence rode on to the City, at whose joyfull Entrance, the Loyal Inhabitants caufed their Pieces of Ordnance to be diftharged; the Streets also, as they past, were beautified with many stately Pageants; where to demonstrate the Citizens voluntary Kindness, this Royal Company was feasted with curious Banquets, presented by Virgins of excellent Beauties: thus passing the streets in Splendour, through a Lane of Warlike young Men of the City, they at last arrived to the Palace, where a double Court of Guards, commanded by the chief Nobles of the Island, most famously received them.

Thalmeno having given the King his Father an Account of his Proceedings, and likewise of the vertuous Dispositions of the three Angelical Ladies, but especially of the Princess Athelia: The King willing

both at first, very near Dismounted; in which Triumphant Combate, having broken their Launces, they retired; but no fooner were they Furnished by their Pages with fresh Launces, but giving Spurs to their Coursers, they again advanced, where the Cicilian fo gallantly behaved himself, that at the next Encounter, he forced both Horse and Man to the Ground with fuch Fury, that the whole Assembly thought he had bid a final Adieu to the World: Which the third Champion perceiving, with an undaunted Refoluti on gave Spurs to his Jennet; so the last Cicilian Knight seeing him approach, with a valorous Courage ran to encounter him; where betwixt these warlike Heroical Martialists so many Acts of Chivalry was demonstrated, that the whole Assembly gave fuch Expressions of Joy, at the viewing of fo rare a Combate, that they were infinitely well pleafed. But to conclude as the Influence of Time giveth a full period to all Terrestrial Accidents, to in the twinkling of an Eye, this strange Cava-lier was by the Cicilian Knight wood famoully vanquished, to the no little rejoycing of the Spectators; but also to the fatisfaction.

tisfaction of the King himself; who for this fortunate Victory, came in person to gratifie these Conquerours with his Royal Thanks; where, being unarmed, espying them to be his Son Thalmeno, with the other two Princes Palma and Medor, very courteoufly went and embraced them, congratulating the Conquest of their Magnanimities: The Queen likewise being advertised of this unexpected News, accompanied with the Princesses Athelia, Mersilva, and Florina, together with a nu-merous Train of glistering Ladies, came also to congratulate them, and so after many Complements and amorous Ceremonies were past, conducted them in a most triumphant manner to the Palace; where they were no sooner arrived, but burning with defire to know who thefe vanquished Knights were, they fo far prevailed with the King, that he prefently dispatch'd away a Noble man, to invite them to the Court: when instantly the vanguished Cavaliers accompanied, with many Troops of valorous Knights, direched their Pace to the Court, where paffing the filver Hall and golden Gallery, they were conducted into the presence, where

where the King, Queen, and Princesses, under a glorious Crimson Canopy of State, imbossed with Diamonds, attended their Arrival; at whose Entrance, descending their Thrones, they advanc'd to Complement them: but our Three Beautifull Princesses just going to Complement them, glancing their Eyes upon their Physiognomy, immediately per-cieved they were their unexpected Natural Royal Parents: The sudden Vision whereof, put them in some Disorder; yet it was so innocent, that it rather was a Friend, than an Enemy to their Beauties: They quickly supprest it, and betwixt Love and Duty, prostrated themfelves at their Feet, craving Pardon: at which amazing Accident, the Cavaliers, ferionfly observing their Beautiful Complections, found them, absolutely, to be their only Daughters; fo that Natural Affection, created Tears of Ravishing Joys from their Eyes, being Transpor-Fortune; they rais'd them from the Ground, and fixing their fight upon each others Countenances, they a long time remained Silent; but at last, accumulaing their Senses, in a joyfull Acclamation, boke these Words.

Welcome dear Daughters to your forrowfull Parents, and Millions of Thanks to facred Jehovab, for investing our Eyes, with these so long desired Objects. Which the King, with his Queen, no fooner heard, but perceiving them to be the Happy Parents of these Vertuous Ladies, in a most Affectionate manner, went and congratulated them, bleffing the Divine Hour, which afforded them the Honour of their Presence, and Rejoicing, in their Arrivals they were made fo Fortunate. The Three Angelical Princesses all this while with Tears in their Eyes, flood trembling, fearing lest their Fathers would reprove them for breach of Duty: Which their Parents perceiving, demanded the Occasion of their Disconsolateness; but they dying their Complections with a Vermillion Bluth, ftood meerly Silent: Which King Druino remarking, stept to their Fathers, and related to them, that being Married without their Royal Confents, he supposed the Discovery of it, they were fearfull would incur their Difpleasure:

pleasure ! Married! faid their Fathers Royal Coufin, I befeech you to whom To which King Druino, reply'd, Arbelia to Prince Thalmens, my Son, and Heir apparent to my Crown; Mersilva to Prince Palma, Son to Blithgora, King of Egypt, and Florina, to Prince Me dor, Son to Orlando, King of Biafara The which these Royal Parents no sooner understood, but rejoicing in that their Daughters were fo honourably match'd they went and most Affectionately En braced them. King Druino feeing the therewith fo well fatisfied; moreover told them, That it were those the Princes, their Sons-in-law, that fo Va lourously had Conquer'd them; which again administred so much Joy, that they defired to bless their Eyes with the happy Object of their unknown Sons Personages; which immediately was performed. for our Heroical young Princes, no fooner understood this strange News, but instantly posting to their Presence, they very Obediently faluted them, imploring Pardon for their audacious Enterprizes which with a Gracious Reply, was foon granted them, so embracing them in the fight onate Sympathy, they, in publick view, enerally ratified, that which before was

olemnly Celebrated.

King Druino, perceiving this unexpeted Heroical Meeting, remarking how. hese sweet Martialists of Affection were ith their sweet Princesses fortunately nited, failed not, in most Triumphant order, to Imbellish this Royal Assemly with extraordinary Grandeur: So Banquetting these Foreign Kings with ch Princely Entertainment, as was Ehivolent to their Royal Persons, he a time retained them in his Cicilian ingdom, to the no less joy of his faith-Subjects, than admiration of all Foreign Spectators; many Days were expired in Solemnizing these Triumphs, the Honour whereof mounting the Skies, will Ell Eternity, redound to the Cicilian Fame.

The Three Renowned Kings seeing it now high time to draw homewards, because they knew the Publick Affairs of their Kingdoms required their Presence, prepared themselves to depart; and so Gracifying King Druino for their Royal

Entertain-